



# The Cross Word

January 2020

*From Pastor Lisa,*

Have you ever heard the story of Stone Soup?

There are many variations on the story, but they all involve a traveler coming into a town beset by famine. The inhabitants try to discourage the traveler from staying, fearing he wants them to give him food. They tell him in no uncertain terms that there's no food anywhere to be found. The traveler explains that he doesn't need any food and that, in fact, he was planning to make a soup to share with all of them.

The villagers watch suspiciously as he builds a fire and fills a big iron pot with water. With great ceremony, he pulls a stone from a bag, dropping the stone into the pot of water. He sniffs the brew extravagantly and exclaims how delicious stone soup is. As the villagers begin to show interest, he mentions how good the soup would be with just a little cabbage in it. A villager brings out a cabbage to share. Then he says the same about a carrot, and then other vegetables, until the soup has cabbage, carrots, onions, potatoes, beets--indeed, a substantial soup that feeds everyone in the village.

The teachers and children of Merry Go Round Pre-School, which meets in our church building, learned and lived this story just before Christmas break. They had so much soup left over that they invited our whole staff to come and eat, and there was still a great deal left to share with others.

This story addresses the human tendency to hoard in times of deprivation. When resources are (or seem to us to be) scarce, we pull back and put all of our energy into self-preservation. We isolate ourselves and shut out others. As the story of stone soup reveals, in doing so, we often deprive ourselves and everyone else of a feast.

This metaphor plays out beyond the realm of food. We hoard ideas, love, energy, and money, thinking we need them for ourselves and will be better off so, when in truth we make the world, and ourselves, poorer whenever we try to stockpile our reserves. The traveler was able to see that the villagers were holding back, and he had the genius to draw them out and inspire them to give, thus creating a spread that none of them could have created alone.

How are we each like one of the villagers, holding back? If you come forward and share your gifts, you will inspire others to do the same. The reward is a banquet that can nourish many. And you - and we - will be richer, indeed!

Thank you, Merry Go Round! Blessings and peace to all in this new year. See you in church!

Pastor Lisa

## **Angels Among Us**

Our angels this month have moved quietly among us for many years. John and Janet Doerner and their cheerful presence seem to be everywhere! John is one of our master dishwashers, a skill and meticulousness born of years working in his parents' restaurant as he grew up in Beach. They both usher and greet us as we arrive for worship, and Janet is one of our Scripture readers as well. She participates in the Gather Bible Study, and is a wonderful hostess for that and for many other occasions in the church. She is very artistic and has an eye for art and a heart for sharing it with others. John helped greatly as LCC was being remodeled, during the construction phases. He helped with painting and was a great cleaner-upper at the end of the days of work. These angels seem always to be willing to clean up after big events, like our pancake and sausage breakfasts for Camp of the Cross, and so many others! They are music lovers and appreciative of our music team's gifts. John and Janet are forever finding ways to give and to help others, frequently offering up creative ideas and thoughtful gestures. Please thank them and give a pat on the back for our January angels, the Doerners!

## **January's Altar Focus**

You may (or may not) know that our public high schools in town have food pantries that help students when their families can't provide enough meals. Some basic hygiene items are sometimes available as well: shampoo, soap, etc. Our focus this month is providing items that are costly to teenage girls and yet absolutely necessary: feminine hygiene pads and tampons. These items may seem "unmentionable" to some or an impolite topic, but they are essential to girls and sometimes they can ill afford them. This month we will gather some to make their lives a bit easier.

The other half of our altar focus this month is Heaven's Helpers Soup Cafe, which is opening up showers and laundry to its guests the end of January. They will need towels and washcloths - these must be NEW and WHITE - and shampoo, conditioner, and body wash, and laundry detergent.

Thank you. Your gifts mean so much to so many!



Lutheran Church of the Cross  
"Making Jesus Known by Sharing Our Gifts"  
Council Meeting Minutes  
12-17-19

Prior to convening the monthly LCC Council meeting, President Kylie call an Executive Session. All Council members were present and no staff members were present. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss staff compensation for 2020. A small adjustment was made and agreed upon unanimously by the Council. The Executive Session was adjourned.

Council President Kylie Blanchard called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 PM. In attendance were all council members including: Ken Will, Tom Harris, Krisi Kunz, Heather Martin, Mark Kunze and Jon Hanson. Also, in attendance were staff members, Janie, Art, and Pastor Lisa Ahlness. Pastor Lisa led us in an opening prayer.

Minutes from the last Council meeting were unanimously approved on a vote from Jon and a second from Heather.

Pastor Lisa's report included: the Thrivent generosity seminar attended by her and Ken; the meeting with Asst to the Bishop Beth Anderson regarding the "call process" for calling Janie to her position as a Deacon following her ordination---Tom will lead the call committee; LCC hosted Lunch at First and participated in a Thanksgiving service at the UCC church; Lisa attended and reported on the Burleigh County Commission meeting for the resettlement of refugees; Both the Gather and Friday bible studies continue; Lisa officiated at the burial of Rose Kenny and a "non-member's" funeral; the cookie walk and caroling were well attended; the Advent mid-week services are following the Holden Evening Prayer service; Christmas Eve services are at 5:30 and 10:00 PM.

Director of Discipleship, Janie Hauge, reported on Ornament Crafting; the upcoming Sunday School Christmas program; taking a group to see Frozen 2; freezer meals preparation will again take place in Jan or Feb.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Art (see attached summary---a copy of the full report can be obtained by asking at the church office). The Council agreed that Mission Support amounts, as previously authorized, should be sent to Missouri Slope and Lutheran Social Services. Pancake breakfast donations will again be sent to Camp of the Cross, along with any remaining Mission Support budget amount not previously sent. Art noted that the LCC Endowment Fund had received a \$6,000 gift and the giver noted that his last year's donation (of the same amount) had not been credited to the Endowment Fund but mistakenly put into the general fund

## Church Council Minutes continued

Art noted that the LCC Endowment Fund had received a \$6,000 gift and the giver noted that his last year's donation (of the same amount) had not been credited to the Endowment Fund but mistakenly put into the general fund. Art talked with Augie Turnus, our CPA auditor and on a motion from Ken and as seconded by Jon, a \$6,000 amount will be taken out of the general fund and placed into the Endowment Fund. On a motion by Jon, as seconded by Mark, Art Wheeler was unanimously re-appointed as Treasurer for the 2020 year. The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

The amended Articles of Incorporation, as revised by Murray Sagsveen, was discussed and approved for presentation to the Congregation at the annual meeting on a motion by Heather as seconded by Ken.

Lisa gave a short report on the activity of the Nomination Committee and they are still looking for one more nominee for the Council and one more nominee for the Endowment Fund. Connie noted that Committee Reports were due on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.

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Ken moved and Jon seconded a motion to submit the Council recommended 2020 budget to the Congregation at the annual meeting and to have it sent via email and other means to all members in advance of the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

The January 26<sup>th</sup> "Farewell and Goodbye" dinner for Bishop Narum, as hosted by LCC was discussed. Ken noted that a steering committee comprised of Pastor Lisa, Pastor Beth Walch of Lord of Life Lutheran, Pam Hanson, Karen Will and himself were scheduled to meet on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Council meeting was adjourned with the reciting of the Lord's Prayer.

On 12-12-19, President Kylie sent all Council members an email regarding the Sanctuary furnace that had stopped working. She explained that John Kraft had asked H.A. Thompson and Sons to check the furnace and there was a gas valve that was broken/no longer functioning. The valve replacement was estimated at \$300 for the part plus additional cost for labor, and would take 5-6 days from order to get the part because of the age of the furnace and the limited availability of parts. There was also no guarantee that was the only problem - because gas was not running to the furnace, other key components could not be checked.

## Church Council Minutes continued

Because of the age of the furnace and the probability that was not the only problem with it functioning at this time or the only problem it would encounter in the future, it was recommended the church do a full replacement of the furnace estimated at approx. \$5,000.

President Kylie also explained she had spoken with Art regarding funding for a furnace and two options arose:

- \$5,000 in the Old Building fund that the Council set aside at the beginning of the year for unexpected maintenance costs or snow removal overages.
- 6,600 in undesignated funding in the General Savings was also available.

An email vote was conducted, as allowed by our constitution, and two motions: one to waive the formal bidding process and one to have H.A. Thompson replace the furnace were unanimously passed.

On Sunday (Dec. 15th) morning, Jon Hanson reported that he had received an email from Mark Thompson and family, that they would donate both the furnace and all labor/associated costs to the church. Thank you, Thompson family! What an amazing and giving congregation we have at LCC!

### TREASURER'S REPORT

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS      December 4, 2019

#### INFORMATION ITEMS:

All bills and statements as of November 30 have been paid.

All November bank statements have been reconciled and registries are correct.

Total Adjusted Income for November was \$36,629 which exceeded the budget goal of \$35,133 by \$1,496. Included in the November contributions was a Charitable Gift of \$10,000 which helped a great deal. The Adjusted November expenses were \$26,723 less than income by \$9,906. Not included in the expenses was Promissory Note interest of \$4,810 and Replacement Media of \$3,329 as these expenses came from other funds than the General Operating Fund.

The Adjusted Income excluded designated income not part of the General Operating Fund.

For the first eleven months of 2019 (Jan-Nov.), after excluding Endowment and Media gifts or other Income not a part of the Gen'l Operating Fund which totaled \$10,214 the eleven-month income was \$354,150. The eleven-month Budget goal was \$386,463 or \$32,313 more than received for the General Fund. Total eleven-month expense was \$319,347. The eleven-month contributions were \$34,803 more than expenses for the General Operating Fund.

The total Promissory Note liability is now \$294,932 for the Phase 2 construction. That is a major reduction from the original ABC bank loan of \$545,000 in 2012. This reduction was possible because approximately 22 LCC members loaned the church some of their savings. They are being repaid thru the Promissory Note Reserve fund. There is a transfer of \$5,700 monthly from the General Operating fund to the Promissory Note Reserve fund to handle the note redemption.

I've shared lots of numbers. As always, please contact me if you would like additional information other than what's provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur W Wheeler, Treasurer

## Heat the Church for a Day

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, or put in the offering or use electronic giving. Thank you to the families of Moser, Lauf, Staloch, Hanson, Spilde, Mattheis, Crane, Suess/Hocker, Zinsli, Tiffany, Anderson, Koch, Krueger, Hultin, Doerner, Kunze, Blanchard, Kraft, Hanson during the months of December and January for contributing to the Heating the church fund.



Happy  
New  
Year



**Friday Night at the Movies** January 10, 6:30 pm with a potluck first. Deb Carpenter previews many movies ahead of time and then selects what she feels is the best of the best for us to watch. Movies that are family friendly are a priority for her. She then sends out an enticing email without naming the movie. Go figure! which gets the secretary wondering what movie she is talking about. The potluck supper is always wonderful. In case you think one has to have movie style popcorn to accompany the movie Bob Wilson makes 2 different batches of wonderfulness. Other desserts are brought too. Unlike going to a movie theater intermission happens here so we may refill the popcorn and other treats.



**THANK YOU** to all who helped set up, mix, cook, serve, pick up, refill and clean up after the very successful and much-enjoyed pancake and sausage benefit on December 15 for Camp of the Cross! A large crowd enjoyed themselves immensely, and we raised \$3167! A wonderful effort!

\*\*\*\*\* It is an especially good thing, because Camp of the Cross is currently in crisis mode. There has been a water main break in the vicinity of the parking lot, and there is a great deal of damage. Unfortunately, the area of the break has not yet been located. The water has been shut off, but the camp is facing sudden and mounting costs for water bills, excavation work and fixing the parking lot in the spring. If you can make an extra gift to Camp of the Cross.... now is a critical time. Thank you for all your generosity!

**THANK YOU** to all who baked, organized, set up, served and donated/enjoyed the Cookie Walk this year! We fulfilled our wildest dreams of eating fancy cookies, AND gave a gift to Heaven's Helpers Soup Café of \$625 to help feed others. We even had enough left to make up festive plates of goodies to take with us Christmas Caroling that afternoon, along with ornaments made by our stitching group. Thanks to all!

**THANK YOU** to Janie and the Church School teachers for a wonderful, joy-filled Christmas program on the 15<sup>th</sup>, followed by dinner and goodies. The whole evening was enjoyable for all!



# Gospel Seeds - January 2020 Western ND Synod

## **Generosity Abounds...**

We have just come through the Christmas Season and are living in Epiphany – giving thanks for Jesus the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. Sitting in a dimly lit office, a couple of lamps pushing back the darkness into the corners of the room, my spirit is content and grateful. Why? I could focus on the bitter cold, the snow that needs to be moved, the ache in my shoulder or a-thousand-and-one concerns weighing on my mind, but instead I chose to focus on gratitude.

I am grateful for the generosity I see all around. I have witnessed people filling baskets in the narthex of their churches for the sake of those who do not have enough. I have witnessed people extending a hand and words of welcome to those who are pushed aside by some. I have witnessed those who are incarcerated being shown acts of great love and compassion. All of this leaves me grateful for the generosity I have witnessed among members of this synod.

Jesus has given us so much – life and life abundant – with gratitude we can share that life with others. We share life when we love without strings, speak of our hope in Jesus and live lives which point to Christ. Thanks for all the ways that you live the faith.

## **Thinking Ahead...**

It may seem like a long way off, but before you know it the days will be longer, the angle of the Sun will allow it to warm the earth and snow will melt. Frozen landscape will blossom with crops and wildflowers. Close your eyes – open them again and it will be June and time for Synod Assembly.

This year's Assembly is June 5-6 (with a Preassembly workshop and Mission Gala on Thursday June 4) at the Ramkota in Bismarck. We will gather around the theme "Called by name..." focusing on Isaiah 43:1. One piece of business will be the election of our next Bishop.

As your congregation heads toward its annual meeting I encourage you to elect voting members to Assembly – let your voice be heard in the midst of this important process. Every congregation of the synod is allowed at least two voting members. Extra voting members are allowed based on the size of your congregation. If you have questions, please call the synod office; we will help you determine your number of voting members.

## **Welcome...**

I would like to personally welcome Interim Bishop David Zellmer. As I transition to congregational ministry, Interim Bishop Zellmer will help lead the synod forward until the next Bishop is elected and begins the call. I consider Dave a good friend. He is wise, compassionate, creative and passionate about the Gospel. Dave grew up in Minot and was confirmed at Christ Lutheran. As a pastor, he served in both rural and large town congregations. Please welcome him when he arrives – he will serve well in the months to come.

## **Farewell Events:**

This month synod leadership will be hosting "Farewell and Thank-You" events around the synod. This is my chance to say thanks to you all for our years of work together. Come out for food, fellowship, a word of thanks from me, a chance to engage Scripture and time to think about what we have learned together through the last 11 and ½ years. Here is the schedule:

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| January 11 – 6:00PM | First Lutheran, Williston              |
| January 12 – 2:00PM | Christ Lutheran, Lignite               |
| January 12 – TBA    | Bread of Life, Minot                   |
| January 19 – TBA    | First Lutheran, Rugby                  |
| January 25 – 3:00PM | St. John, Dickinson                    |
| January 26 – 5:00PM | Lutheran Church of the Cross, Bismarck |



## Western Synod News continued

### Constitutional Changes...

During the 2019 Churchwide Assembly changes were made to the Synod Constitutions. Some of the approved changes are required to be adopted by the synod, so that has happened and are currently reflected in the Synod Constitution. Other changes were optional. In October, your Synod Council, on the advice of our Synod Attorney, approved a number of optional changes. These proposed changes will come before our Synod Assembly in June. The text of the changes will be available on the Synod Website.

*God Bless All!* Mark Narum

Serving as Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod

### **Farewell and Goodbye to Bishop Mark**

Church of the Cross has the honor of hosting a Farewell and Goodbye event for Bishop Narum on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. All of the ELCA congregations in Bismarck/Mandan, and the surrounding area will be invited. An early evening meal be provided by our wonderful Faith and Care groups. Please watch for more details as they become available!

### **Invitation Letter sent to congregations**

RE: Please help us celebrate Bishop Narum's tenure as Synod Bishop with a "Farewell and Thank You" dinner on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM at Lutheran Church of the Cross.

Dear Pastor and Congregation;

As you might already be aware, the Western ND Synod Council has recommended that the ELCA churches of Western ND host a series of "Farewell and Thank You" dinners for Bishop Narum, whose term of office and call to a Bismarck congregation occur early next year.

Lutheran Church of the Cross has offered to host the only such dinner in south central ND and extends an invitation to you and your congregation to attend the dinner on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM, in our Fellowship hall at 1001 S. Highland Acres Road.

Please extend this invitation to your congregation, and as you can well imagine, we need a "head count" to prepare enough meals. Please ask your congregational members who plan to attend, to sign-up or somehow let you know, then communicate that number back to Church of the Cross (see contact information below) no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>.

We'd truly love to see you here to help all of the congregations in South Central ND celebrate the wonderful years that Bishop Mark has dedicated to the Western ND Synod of the ELCA (and to each and every congregation therein).

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

May God continue to bless you and your congregation.

LCC

# Children Youth & Family



January 2020

## Freezer Meals

**Stock Pile Your Freezer with 5 meals for \$75!** Each meal serves 4 people. If you are a family of 2 you can split each of the meals into smaller portions and get 8 meals out of it. Join us on **January 11th from 11am - 2:00 pm at church** for freezer meal assembly. The meals are: meatloaf, chicken pot pie, beef stew, three ingredient ranch pork chops, and breakfast burritos, Each meal includes a devotional and instructions, and the recipe. We do the shopping and most of the prep work - all you need to do is come to assemble to complete your meals and have an few hours of fun and fellowship! **Deadline is January 5th to sign up.** Please sign up in the narthex as spots are limited. If needed, child care can be provided, please indicate when signing up if needing childcare. If you have any questions or are willing to help prep the food, please contact the church office and ask for Janie. The more people that sign up, the total price of the meals will go down. Payment is due the day of the assembly.

### CONTACT INFO:

Janie Hague, Director of Discipleship  
Office #: 223-1001  
Cell #: 701-301-9917  
Email: [lccdod@midconetwork.com](mailto:lccdod@midconetwork.com)

## Mark your Calendar!

- Youth Lock-in for grades 5-10 January 17th from 8pm-7am. Come for an evening of fun filled activities, food, and so much more!
- Family fund day at Midway Lanes. Join us for an afternoon of bowling on January 19th from 2-4pm.
- Youth going on the mission trip to New York this summer will be participating in a fundraiser at the Mandan Dairy Queen January 15 from 4-9pm. We will receive 20% off all instore net sales, and 10% of net drive through sales. Please come and join us for this awesome fundraiser.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Valentines bake sale fundraiser! The youth going on the mission trip this summer will be having a bake sale on Sunday February 9th and Wednesday February 12th. Donations of baked goods and candy are welcome and need to be to the church by Saturday February 8th. There will be a free will offering taken for the bake sale.

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu  | Fri  | Sat  |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| <b>January 2020</b>   |   |  |   |  |  |  |
|   |   |  | <b>1</b><br>New Year's Day<br>Office Closed   | <b>2</b><br>8pm AA Mtg.                                  | <b>3</b><br>WITW<br>Bible Study 12:15  | <b>4</b>   |
| <b>5</b> 9:00 Church school<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Coffee Hour   | <b>6</b><br>Needlework<br>Group<br>10:00am                                | <b>7</b> Gather Bible<br>Study 1:15pm                          | <b>8</b><br>5:15pm Supper<br>6:15pm Worship<br>7:00pm Church School-<br>Confirmation    | <b>9</b><br>LAF<br>Quilting 1pm<br>8pm AA Mtg.           | <b>10</b><br>WITW<br>Bible Study 12:15<br>Friday Night at the<br>Movies 6:30pm | <b>11</b><br>Freezer Meals 10-<br>noon<br>Book Club 12:30pm<br>LCC |
| <b>12</b> 9:00 Church school<br>10:00 Worship<br><b>11:00 Annual Meeting</b><br>Potluck follows meeting                       | <b>13</b><br>Needlework<br>Group<br>10:00am                               | <b>14</b><br>5:30 Committee<br>Mtgs.<br>6:30 Church<br>Council | <b>15</b><br>5:15pm Supper<br>6:15pm Worship<br>7:00pm Church School,<br>Confirmation   | <b>16</b><br>LAF<br>Quilting 1pm<br>8pm AA Mtg.          | <b>17</b><br>WITW<br>Bible Study 12:15<br>Lock-In 8pm- 7am                     | <b>18</b>  |
| <b>19</b><br>9:00 Church School<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Coffee Hour   | <b>20</b><br>Needlework<br>Group<br>10:00am                               | <b>21</b>  | <b>22</b><br>5:15pm Supper<br>6:15pm Worship<br>7:00pm Church School,<br>Confirmation   | <b>23</b><br>LAF WE SERVE<br>Quilting 1pm<br>8pm AA Mtg. | <b>24</b><br>WITW<br>Bible Study 12:15<br>Men's Retreat<br>@COC                | <b>25</b><br>Men's Retreat<br>@COC                                 |
| <b>26</b> Men's Retreat @COC<br>9:00 Church School<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Coffee Hour<br><b>5:00pm Bishop Narum Dinner</b> | <b>27</b><br>Needlework<br>Group<br>10:00am<br>Knitting 4 Oth-<br>ers 1pm | <b>28</b>  | 29 6:30am MM Bible<br>Study<br>5:15pm Supper<br>6:15pm Worship<br>7:00pm Church School- | <b>30</b><br>LAF<br>Quilting 1pm<br>8pm AA Mtg.          | 31   |  |

1004 E Highland Acres Rd  
Bismarck ND 58501  
Phone: 701.223.1001

churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

# E-News

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Worship Times:  
Wednesday Worship  
6:15pm (School year)

Sunday Worship  
The River Service  
10:00am

Lisa Ahlness, Pastor

Office Hours:  
M -TH 9-4pm  
Fri. 9-1pm School Year  
Summer Hours 9-1  
Mon.—Fri

## Lutheran Church of the Cross

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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.

**“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”**