



The Cross Word

March 2020

From Pastor Lisa,

This week begins the season of Lent, a period of 40 days (not counting Sundays) which lasts from Ash Wednesday on Feb. 26th until Easter Sunday, April 12th, when we celebrate Christ's resurrection.

In the earliest days of Christianity, this was a time of preparation for people who wanted to be baptized. For 40 days they fasted and learned about the faith, repenting of their sins. "Lent" is from an Anglo-Saxon word that means "springtime," and so it is understood to mean a holy springtime of the soul, a time for preparation, planting and growth.

Over the centuries, Lent has continued to be observed by Roman Catholic and many Protestant churches. It is a time for penitence and for reflection on the quality of our faith and life – a season of spiritual growth focusing on our relationship with God. Purple is the color of penitence, which is why our altar paraments and the pastor's stole change to purple for this season.

You may have heard of "giving up something" for Lent; a practice related to penitence (if giving up a vice, or something less than good for us, anyway, such as smoking, drinking pop or eating chocolate). The idea is that then we use the time for reflection or prayer instead, and the money we would have spent on such items for charity. Fasting is a spiritual discipline which symbolizes penance and remorse for our sins. Again, one could use the time for prayer or devotions that would otherwise have been spent eating. Many Roman Catholics still practice giving up meat on Fridays, a form of fasting, throughout the season of Lent.

Other Christians "take something on" for Lent to augment their spiritual growth, such as daily Bible reading or devotions to deepen their prayer life.

Have you been thinking about something to give up or take on for Lent?

Two things have been much on my mind lately. One is the minimalist movement, about which I've been reading and considering for a while. So one thing I've decided to "give up" is at least 40 things (one per day) from my overstuffed house that I don't need – without replacing them with others. (This shouldn't even be much of an effort, considering studies show the average American household contains 300,000 items!!) So I'm also fasting from purchasing goods for Lent. Not groceries, although I'm also making an effort to eat from my pantry and freezer and only buy fresh fruits, veggies and milk.

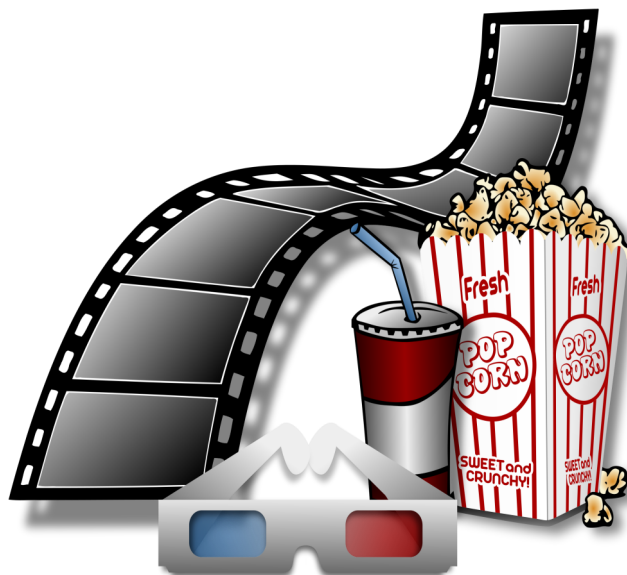
And I've decided to "take on" a fast from plastics. I've grown increasingly aware of just how overwhelming the amount of plastics in our lives is, and I've seen enough horrifying pictures of piles of garbage, gigantic plastic heaps in the ocean - spreading for miles - and statistics about how many zillion years it would take for such plastics to decompose to galvanize me into action. I know I likely can't achieve "no plastic use", but I want to at least make myself conscious of how much of it is everywhere in our lives and try to reduce its use in my own.

As the weather warms, I enjoy walking outside more and more. Walking provides good time for meditation, contemplation of nature, or conversation with a friend, if I should be so lucky as to find someone with whom to share my walk.

What will you give up or take on this Lent? Let's stay in touch and share with one another as we walk the journey of these 40 days.

See you in church!
Pastor Lisa

Movie Night on March 13th 6:30 pm begins with a potluck. 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 everyone 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.

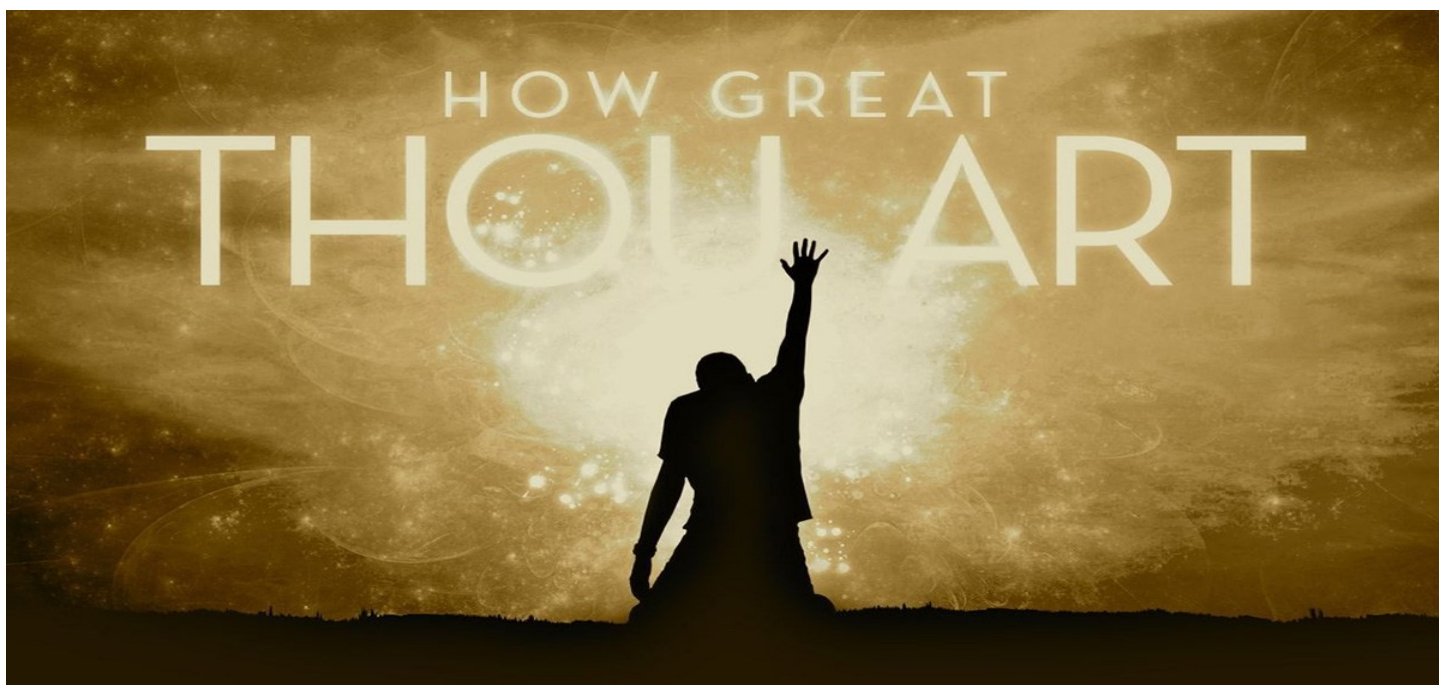


Worship During Lent

Wednesdays:

Some of our earliest memories of church are the notes and words of hymns that speak to what we are feeling. They bring us comfort when we are grieving or suffering, spark joy with songs of praise, and make us think or focus our minds to follow something bigger than ourselves. The music of hymns can reach us when words alone are not enough. There is an old saying to the effect that singing is like praying twice – and with beloved hymns, the familiar prayers bring us closer to knowing God.

But what about the people who wrote these hymns? Were they important people who lived their lives well, or did they struggle with some of the same challenges we face? On Wednesday evenings during Lent, we will hear their stories before we sing some of those beloved songs. The stories are readings taken from the excellent book “Then Sings My Soul” by Robert J. Morgan. Join us for soup, bread and bars from 5 pm to 6 pm, and worship at 6:15 pm!



Sundays:

This year on Sundays, we will see and hear the culmination of the Living Generously series. These closing episodes are called Leading Generously, and focus around giving of your essence, not just your excess. Come experience what the Donovan family learn and live into as they deal with encounters and challenges just like we all do. How does our faith color our lives, particularly as we influence the lives of others? Come join us on Sundays at 10 am for worship!

Angels Among Us

If you are only at LCC on Sunday morning or Wednesday night, you may not run into this angel often, but she is very much behind most everything we do! Connie Werner is our angel this month! And yes, she is the church secretary, and she does her work very well. What you may not know is all the extras. Connie is a talented artist (as you can ascertain by walking by her office) and initiated a stitching group which gathers on Mondays to work on many projects. They created beautiful ornaments for Helping Hands to share with our folks who don't get here often. She comes for coffee with the quilters, who share her love of creating, artistry and service. Connie has a way of helping one sort through complex situations, and a listening ear whether one needs to vent frustrations or hold together a hurting heart. She is gracious on the phone and has the sense of humor needed to deal with the vicissitudes of a day in the life of a congregation: giving directions, providing information, guiding us in many small ways. Thank you, angel Connie, for being our field marshal and caring heart. Give her a pat on the back and a big thank you when you see her!

Altar Focus is M & M's for C.A.R. (Central African Republic.)

The Western Synod continues to partner with the Central African Republic to help build schools and provide for supplies so children have access to education, provide scholarships so young women can receive education and vocational training, train new pastors to share the Good News. Provide health care in Gallo and in other remote areas of C.A. R., provide clean drinking water to rural villages, support youth and young adult ministry.

Take a tube of M& M Minis. Enjoy the sweet flavor of chocolate and return the tube with \$14 worth of quarters or a check. Hopefully repeating the process several times during Lent!

Elanor Oliphant By Gail Honeyman

Book report reviewed by Lois Hanson.

Someone has said every book is a mystery because you don't know where it is going. This book is about a lonely, unhappy woman in England. You think you know it will have a happy ending but it has few twists you may not see coming. She struggles with the proper social skills and lives on a schedule that includes vodka on the weekends. Then she meets a few people who change her life. A delightful book about a woman who is heartbreaking and hilarious.

Church Council is March 18th. They are now meeting the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

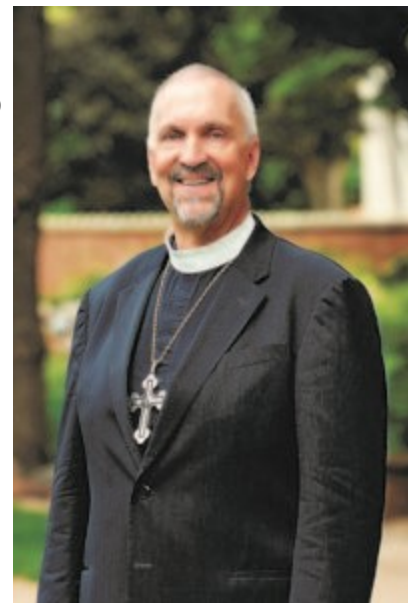
The various committees are meeting at 5:30pm that same day.

Gospel Seeds - March 2020 Western ND Synod

A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM BISHOP

Dear People of the Western North Dakota Synod,

As I begin my time in this role of interim bishop, let me start with “Thank You” to the Synod Staff for their warm and helpful welcome, thank you to Synod Council for getting the Ts crossed and I’s dotted. I am called to serve until September when your Bishop Elect will formally start serving the synod. A final “Thank You” to the Rev. Mark Narum. We became close friends and colleagues serving the people of the Dakotas for eleven years. Because of his work with you, I am comfortable coming to serve the Western North Dakota Synod. I continue to pray that the Holy Spirit works through your process of selecting your next bishop.



I count Minot as the place I grew up, completing my sophomore year of high school in 1970. My father, the Rev. Bruce Zellmer served as Chaplain/CPE Supervisor at Trinity Lutheran Hospital from 1962-70. I was confirmed at Christ Lutheran, Minot in 1969. Confirmation was delayed because of a teacher’s strike and the 40 days of flooding that began Easter Sunday. I believe our group from Christ Lutheran were the first to attend camp at the brand-new Camp Metigoshe as the T-shaped building was being finished on the original site. I have wonderful memories of five years of work week-ends, summer camping and retreats. North Dakota was a great place to grow up; it is heartwarming to return now.

LaDonna and I have been married for almost 44 years. She continues to be an educator and counselor. We have been blessed with four children, Christina, Josh, Sarah and Mike. All are married. We have been further blessed with eleven grandchildren. Six girls and five boys. The best part is they all live in South Dakota and we spend significant amounts of time with them. I enjoy bike riding (we have an annual family bike ride in the Black Hills), hunting, and shooting trap & sporting clays competitively. I have a multi-engine single engine commercial pilots license and used planes in my work as bishop. I had a flying ministry while I served in Pierre, South Dakota.

I served the South Dakota District/Synod for 39 years. In 1981, LaDonna and I served a three-point ALC parish in rural Aberdeen. In 1985, we moved to Mitchell where I served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church. During my years there, we lived through the merger as we became the ELCA. In 1993, I was called to serve as senior pastor of Lutheran Memorial Church in Pierre and Grace Lutheran in Hayes, SD. Lutheran Memorial was the largest protestant church in central South Dakota and Grace was the smallest. In 2007, I was elected as the third bishop of the South Dakota Synod. I followed Bishop Emeritus Andrea Degroot-Nesdahl who was called from serving the Bishop’s staff in the Western North Dakota Synod.

I look forward to serving as your interim bishop. I plan on visiting the Synod’s outdoor ministry sites and will attend as many gatherings of rostered ministers as I can. I will be with you at Synod Assembly as part of the leadership team. I will work with the person who is chosen by you to be your next bishop, to pass on what I have learned about serving in this office of bishop.

Yours in Christ,
I

The Rev David B. Zellmer
Interim Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod

Children Youth & Family



March 2020



First Communion class

- 1st Communion classes are fast approaching. Classes are for 3rd graders and anyone else who is ready to take communion.. 3rd graders and their parents for Sunday School classes are March 29th and April 5th at 9am in the conference room. For Wednesday youth classes are March 25th and April 1st at 7pm in the conference room. First Communion will take place April 9th at 7pm.

CONTACT INFO:

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

Mark your Calendar!

- March 1st 6-12th grade Youth Group from 6-8:30pm. We will be playing broomball with other local churches. Meet at Church of the Cross at 6pm, we will return to the church at 8pm.
- March 20th 7-9th Grade Bash at Camp of the Cross. Meet at LCC at 5pm. We will then travel to camp and return to LCC around 6pm on the 21st. Cost is \$35. Deadline to register is March 15th. Talk to Janie if you are interested in going, and to fill out a registration form.
- March 22nd Youth Group from 3-5pm for grades 3-9

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 17th 4-6th Grade Bash at Camp of the Cross. Meet at LCC at 5pm. We will then travel to camp and return to LCC around 6pm on the 21st. Cost is \$35. Deadline to register is April 10th. Talk to Janie if you are interested in going, and to fill out a registration form.

Confirmation

- Lent is here. This year confirmation classes will continue throughout Lent. Confirmation students are invited to come to worship at 6:15pm before confirmation.

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Church school 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour Broomball 6:30-8pm Financial Peace 7pm	2	3 Staff Mtg 10am <i>Gather Bible</i> Study 1:15pm	4 5:00pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm Church School, Confirmation	5 LAF Quilting 1pm 8pm AA Mtg.	6 WITW Bible Study 12:00	7
8 9:00 Church school 10:00 Worship 11:00 Congregational Mtg/Coffee Hour Financial Peace 7pm	9 Needlework Group 10:00am	10 Staff Mtg 10am	11 5:00pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm Church School, Confirmation	12 LAF Quilting 1pm 8pm AA Mtg.	13 WITW Bible Study 12:00 Friday Night at the Movies 6:30pm	14 Book Club 12:30pm LCC
15 9:00 NO Church school 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour Youth Group 3-5pm Financial Peace 7pm	16 Needlework Group 10:00am	17 Staff Mtg 10am 5:30 C2 Mtgs. 6:30 Council	18 1:00pm Work Day for LWR 5:00pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm No Church School, No Confirma- tion	19 LAF Quilting 1pm 8pm AA Mtg.	20 WITW Bible Study 12:00 7-9 Gr. Bash @ COC	21
22 9:00 Church School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour Youth Group 3-5pm Financial Peace 7pm	23 Needlework Group 10:00am Knitting for Others 1pm	24 Staff Mtg 10am	25 6:30amMM Bible Study 5:00pm Soup Supper 6:15pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm Church School, Con- firmation First Communion class	26 LAF We serve Quilting 1pm 8pm AA Mtg.	27 WITW Bible Study 12:00	28
29 9:00 Church School—1st Communion class 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour Ordination of Deacon Janie Hague 2pm Financial Peace 7pm	31 Needlework Group 10:00am	31 Staff Mtg 10am				

Lutheran Church of the Cross
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Bismarck ND 58501
701.223.1001
churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

E-News

Worship Times:

Wednesday Worship
Living Water Service
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

The Church Council meets once a month; the third 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”