



# The Cross Word

May 2020

*From Pastor Lisa,*

*It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed. Deuteronomy 31:8*

How are you doing? That is a question we are asking each other during these weeks-stretching-into-months of living in a world changed by COVID-19. I find myself forming new habits and ways of dealing with the gamut of emotions that come with long term anxiety and uncertainty of what lies ahead.

Have you noticed, time itself has changed? That's perception, of course, but early on, each day seemed about a week long, as everything had to happen in new ways. We're not seeing other people in the usual patterns and ways, and so the hours ebb and flow differently.

Despite the stack of really great books on my bedside table and to-read list, I find myself reading one I've read before, in the same way that I would never tire of watching a certain movie or two, for the simple comfort they bring. And, oddly, I collected several books on pandemics - for instance, about the flu epidemic in 1918 - and including one called "Journal of a Plague Year" by Daniel Defoe, who wrote Robinson Crusoe. That particular plague year was 1665-66, when the bubonic plague hit London very hard.

Isaac Newton was in his early 20s and a student at Cambridge when that wave of the plague hit. Even though the bacteria that caused it weren't discovered until a couple of centuries afterward, folks in those times also took measures to mitigate the crisis, including their ways of social distancing. All the colleges closed, and students were sent home, young Isaac to his estate 60 miles to the north just as my son, in his early 20s and studying in London, was sent home this year (like so many others) as the illness spread.

Newton called his time away "the year of wonders" as he continued to learn. He developed early calculus. He learned theories of optics from playing with prisms. And that big apple tree outside his window helped him imagine gravity that doesn't just make an apple fall to the ground, but is a force at work far beyond our small selves. I read an article that said this unstructured time apart (who knows? maybe

half the time in pajamas!) was life changing for him.

How has it been life changing for you?

We may not be Isaac Newton, but we are each of us unique, and what opportunities there are amidst the changes!

What observations have you made? What are you learning? What do you notice in nature, as you take more time to walk about? What do you hear? How have you stewarded your spiritual life—praying? Time spent nurturing it? Joining in worship via livestream, radio or TV? What are you reading? Creating? What brings you joy? What acts of compassion are you motivated to do: write a note or call someone, make masks for use where needed, run a small errand, fill a little food pantry with provisions?

It may have been years since I heard the birds sing as I do this year. Or watched quite as breathlessly as the crabapples blossom and the lilacs bud and the tulips poke their colorful heads out.

I miss you. I am grateful for you. The council and your leaders are working on a restart plan for when we can be back in worship, as safely as possible. We will keep you updated! Til then, I'll "see" you in worship. Be well. Take care, and take heart- we are safe in God's hands.

Pastor Lisa

## **Angels Among Us**

You are used to a person or couple or family being named our angels of the month.... but this time, we'd like to lift up the entire worship team, who have worked so hard over these weeks to bring worship to us in our homes. THANK YOU to The River singers and the Living Water singers and to Robin, who has found and learned new software, worked with the singers and accompanists to record themselves at home, and edited it all together to blend seamlessly with the small live team at the church. Thanks to Joel and Jan Gilbertson and Marin Traynor, accompanying from home. Thanks to Kari for the percussion that adds so much. Thanks to the whole production team at the back of the church, working sound, projection and livestreaming. Thanks to Tom and John, who intercede when the technical parts don't play well together. Thanks to McKenzie, for her energy and messages to the children. Thanks to Janie and Lisa, for bringing the Word to us each week. We are so grateful to be able to worship God together!

## **M&M Money for CAR**

If you hadn't yet gotten around to bringing your m&m tube back with a donation for the Central African Republic, never fear – it is not too late! We take this offering with us to the Synod Assembly, which has been postponed until July 17. Try to send or bring your gift by the end of June, with a little note or memo line that says "CAR." Thank you for your generosity.

## **Dan's Supermarket Receipts**

Though we are apart, we are glad that you are continuing to save your Dan's receipts. Think of how much fun it will be to stuff them in the box when we all come back! (or you can drop them by anytime, if you are out and about) Happily, we can go grocery shopping, and saving the receipts is a painless way to help mission projects at church. Thank you!!

## **Speaking of Generosity....**

Thank you so much! Despite all the changes and worshipping from home, one thing has not changed: your generosity. Thanks to those of you who have switched to online giving (It's easy! Call the church office if you would like assistance!), to those of you who have mailed or dropped off offerings, and to those who have made special gifts - just when things seem dire, God moves some of you to lift up LCC's ministry with your support. To all who have written notes of encouragement: we are grateful. Thank you. This is God's church, and no matter what this pandemic throws at us, God walks with us through it. May our faith and our church be strengthened on the journey!

## **Pentecost Sunday!**

May 31 is Pentecost Sunday, when we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit. Traditionally, we wear red on this day to represent the fire of the Spirit. Take some selfies of YOU wearing red on Pentecost, and share them on our Facebook page!



# Children Youth & Family Ministry

May 2020



## Congratulations

Congratulations to our Graduates of LCC, Chloe Markovic, Tyler Hanson, John, Rath, Tyler Odegaard, Michael Tiffany, and Kaylyn Harris.

LCC will host a small get together for the graduates and their parents in the church parking lot on Sunday May 17th, at 11:30 am for them to receive their quilts and a blessing.

### Teacher Appreciation

Thank you so much to all of our confirmation small group leaders and church school teachers for an amazing year! We could not run our education program without volunteers like you!

## Summer Activities

### Vacation Bible School

We are sad to announce that in house vacation bible school for this summer has been cancelled and rescheduled for next summer at United Church of Christ. We are looking at offering an online vacation bible school this summer so keep an eye out for that.

### New York Mission Trip

The New York Mission trip for later in July has been cancelled for this summer. We are hoping to be able to reschedule it for next summer.

#### CONTACT INFO:

Janie Hague, Director of Discipleship

Office #: 223-1001

Cell #: 701-301-9917

Email: [lccdod@midconetwork.com](mailto:lccdod@midconetwork.com)

## **Lutheran College Scholarships**

If one of your family members is attending an ELCA college this next year, please contact Pastor Lisa for a simple application for our Lutheran College Scholarship. These congregational scholarships will be matched by any ELCA college. Don't miss this opportunity! Applications due June 15.

## **How to Connect While We're Apart**

Join us for worship via livestream at [churchofthecross.org](http://churchofthecross.org), or on our Facebook page.

Listen to a worship service on the radio: Trinity Lutheran in Bismarck is on 1270 AM at 8:30 a.m. Sundays. Zion Lutheran in Beulah is on 1410 a.m. at 10:30 Sundays.

Watch a service on TV: First Lutheran in Mandan is on Channel 12 (Midcontinent) at 7 a.m. Sundays. (This service is a week behind.)

Sunne Lutheran in Wilton is on BEK (Channel 26) at 10 a.m. Sundays. Messiah Lutheran in Fargo is on WDAY TV at 11 a.m. Sundays. And Good Shepherd Lutheran in Bismarck is on Dakota Media Access Channel 12 at 4:30 p.m. Sundays.

## **Church Council Meetings**

You are always welcome to come to an LCC Church Council meeting, or one of the committees, if you would like to observe or offer feedback or suggestions. We are currently meeting by Zoom. Call the church office or Janie to be sent the invite to the meeting. Worship and Music team meets Tuesday, May 26 at 5:30 p.m. Next Church Council meeting is Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

## **Wednesday Worship Coordinator(s) Needed**

Maybe God is nudging you toward this! We are looking for someone (or a couple of someones) to take over coordinating our Wednesday worship services during the school year. This would be a few hours a week, and would be paid. Two people could alternate by week or by month, whatever works for them. Worship Director Robin Johnson needs to step back from coordinating, but will train and offer guidance. Please contact Pastor Lisa or Janie or Robin to learn more, and come work with our fantastic Living Water musicians on Wednesdays starting this fall!

## **We Are Here For You**

If there is anything we can do for you, please reach out and let us know. If you have a need or just want to hear a friendly voice, please call 223-1001, our cell phones, or email us. We also have people willing to run errands or make deliveries as needed.

**Lutheran Church of the Cross**  
"Making Jesus Known by Sharing Our Gifts"  
Council Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 2020

**Meeting was called to order** by President Krisi at 6:34pm

**Attendance:** Pastor Lisa, Kylie Blanchard, Janie Hague, Jon Hanson, Krisi Kunz, Mark Kunze, Heather Martin, Connie Werner, Art Wheeler

Not present: Ron Borth, Scott Sommers

**Devotions:** Pastor Lisa led us in prayer

**MSLCC** Guest Paul Gurholt discussed the Lutheran Campaign Phase of the Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center ([MSLCC](#)) Capital Campaign. To enhance the new care center, the MSLCC Board of Directors decided to sponsor a Capital Campaign to raise the funds for a chapel, hydrotherapy pool, employee childcare center, fitness center, clubroom/library, and a Bistro/Coffee Shop as a place for residents and families to come together.

In the future, there will be mailings and temple talks, but the question for the council is to allow the sharing of our contact list with MSLCC for these mass mailings.

Media Update Guest Tom Harris provided an update on the Live-streaming service company sale to Box Cast and the transition progress. A permanent subscription has been budgeted for in the 2020 budget.

**Jon H motion/Kylie B second/APPROVED**

**Approval of February Minutes – Kylie B motion/Mark K second/APPROVED**

## **Calendar Review**

### **Pastor Lisa**

Pastor Lisa had sent out a Three-Phase approach to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this is based on conversation with other church leaders, medical experts and the WND Synod.

We will continue with online streaming and minimal number of persons (max of 10) required for staff, production and music.

Social media updates, to include Facebook and Website.

Phone calls to shut-ins or stay at home members

86 were present last Sunday and 20+ live streamed the service

### **Director of Discipleship (DOD) Janie**

Maintain communications with parents

Networking with other youth directors

Building Alter Boxes for home use

Ordination has been postponed

3<sup>rd</sup> graders (first communion) will Zoom two meetings (9 members)



## Church Council Minutes continued

### Treasurer's Report – Jon H motion/Mark second/APPROVED

All bills and statements as of March 31<sup>st</sup> have been paid.

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

Total adjusted income for March was \$40,904.72. Income was \$4,095 more than the budget goal of \$36,810. The main reason for this was the receipt of \$15,000 in charitable gifts. Many thanks for this additional financial help.

The adjusted March expenses were \$28,383.18. The net income for the month was \$12,521.54. The lesser expenses than budgeted were wonderful. Expenses for several budget categories were less than budget which helped the net income.

The adjusted income excluded designated income not part of the General Operating Fund. I have also included in the report, a full Budget vs Actual review for March, expenses were all in a normal range.

The contribution to the Western North Dakota Synod for March will be \$1,922. We will have contributed \$4,543 towards the annual goal of \$25,000.

The special assessment pay-off as ratified by the congregation will be addressed and paid as budget allows.

### Old Business:

No recent updates to Youth Ed discussion

Congregational meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>, all paperwork for Janie's letter of call has been completed and submitted to the WND Synod

### New Business:

Seminary Scholarship line item of \$500 will be used for Janie's ordination

Camp of the Cross scholarship for McKenzie Johnson

Council spring retreat for March 21<sup>st</sup> has been postponed

### Next Meeting: April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm

President Krisi adjourned the meeting at 7:53pm

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



Lutheran Church of the Cross  
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# E-News

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## Worship Times:

Wednesday Worship  
Living Water Service  
6:15pm (School year)

Sunday Worship  
The River Service  
10:00am live streamed  
only

Lisa Ahlness, Pastor

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

## Lutheran Church of the Cross

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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. The Council is currently meeting via Zoom. Let Krisi Kunz know if you'd like to attend and a invitation will be sent to join Zoom.

**"Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts"**