



The Cross Word

October 2020

From Pastor Lisa

"Lord, you have been our dwelling place for all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." Ps 90:1-2

I am fond of all the seasons, each in its own way – and feel lucky that we get to experience all of them here in North Dakota. But I think I love autumn most of all. The gorgeous colors all around me, and the change in the angle of the sun that highlights them so beautifully. The crisp chill in the air. The mysterious fog at dawn and dusk. The crunchy leaves on the ground. I am grateful to be able to walk, surrounded by all this, and watch nature's palette change from day to day.

And then...the wind. I don't always mind it. But just when I most want to hold on to the beauty all around, to hang onto this great gift in a year that's been so full of chaos, the wind says "never mind", and begins to blow incessantly. Suddenly all those gorgeous leaves are strewn all around on the ground, and the trees are almost bare.

OK, it's North Dakota – it happens. And just because that fall day - or that equally perfect spring, summer or winter day, for that matter – are gone, doesn't mean that we don't still hold the gift of that beauty inside us.

This year has been one for the record books, as they say. And sometimes, when we truly need a respite of peace and beauty, it seems like the winds of change and chaos buffet us incessantly. We long for "normal." We begin to really relate to the psalmists who cried, "How long, O Lord? How long?!"

It's true that we have not experienced anything like this pandemic. But through the centuries, others have – and many, many additional catastrophes as well. (Our human memories are rather short.) Yet God has never left us, never deserted us in the midst of any circumstance. There is no corner so dark, no situation so dire, that God isn't right there walking us through it. We can take a deep breath, be still, and know that God is God, and we are not alone.

Enjoy the beauty of this season. And the next, and the next - however quickly the changes come. Peace to you through it all. Be well. See you at church!

Pastor Lisa

"Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

Angels Among Us

You would be charmed, as usual, by the welcoming smiles of our angels this month – if only the masks weren't in the way! Still, you can see the smiles of Wayne and Linae Wolff reflected in their eyes as they greet you at the door and make sure you have your communion cup. The personable Wolffs laugh easily and beam their optimistic approach to life to those around them.

In addition to ushering, Wayne and Linae have been Faith and Care leaders, where a good sense of humor makes the work go quickly and enjoyably. They have also participated in the Lenten dramas, with talented actor Wayne performing some challenging and moving monologues. He can also be found wearing the red headphones in the middle of the production booth at the back of the church, running the livestream so that those not in the building can participate in worship, too.

Special thanks to the Wolffs this month for their commitment to LCC and their deep care for those around them. Give them a safely distanced “air high five” next time you see them!

Opportunities to serve abound!

We are looking to add to our production team! These are the folks in the booth at the back of the church who make worship run smoothly and make it available to watch at home and at another time. More volunteers mean more availability to rotate, so the same folks don't need to be here all the time. Bonus: upgrades to our equipment and software have simplified the jobs!

There are three parts involved: **projection**, which is advancing the program so that worshippers can follow the liturgy and songs on the screens in the sanctuary and at home; **livestream**, which is using the cameras to follow the service in the sanctuary for others to follow from away; and **sound**, which is working the soundboard to keep all the microphones in use balanced and at proper levels. Even complete novices can learn these easily. We are hoping to train several new volunteers – won't you join us?

In addition, we would like to add more **ushers** to our team. With COVID, some are unable to come in person. If you are willing, this is another job that is simple but oh so important. Let the church office know that you will help: 223-1001 or churchsecretary@midconetwork.com.



Fair Trade Products Available at Church

We continue to offer Equal Exchange fair trade coffees (whole bean and ground, several varieties), teas, hot chocolates (three varieties!), baking chocolate and chocolate bars for sale at LCC for your convenience. These products offer a living wage to hardworking people in several countries who harvest and create them. A small part of each sale benefits our youth program. These items make great pick-me-up gifts, for yourself or someone else!

Prairie Faith Devotions

We continue to have devotional booklets at church, which you are welcome to pick up (or we can deliver, just let us know).

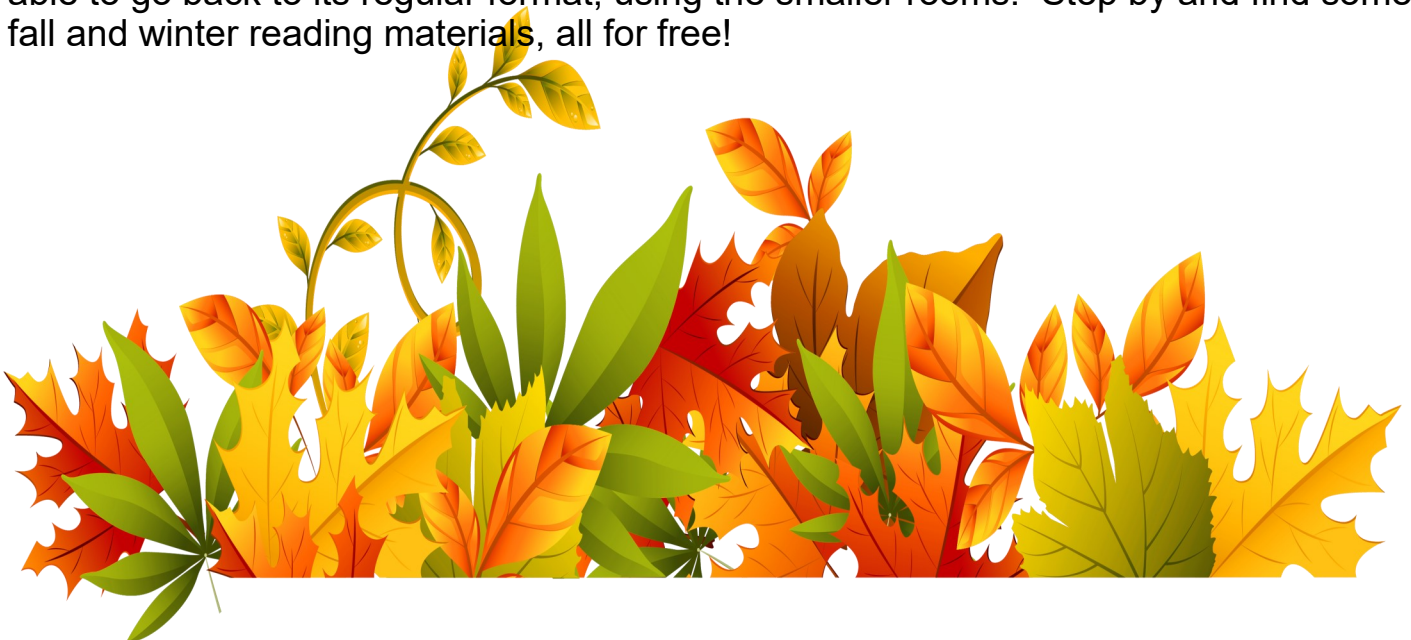
If you are looking for a brief, online, video devotion each day, search for Prairie Faith Devotions on FaceBook. These are done daily by about 50 ELCA pastors and deacons, coordinated out of the Prairie Lutheran parish in the Stanley area. Both Deacon Janie and Pastor Lisa are participating in the rotation. You can enjoy archived earlier devotions, as well.

At-Home Communion

Are you not ready to come back to church yet, but really missing communion? You can pick up (or we can drop off, again – just let us know) the all-in-one communion cups that we are using at church for you to use in joining us as you watch online. You may also use elements of your own at home: bread and grape juice or wine. Then tune in on your computer or other device at 9:50 Sunday mornings (so you don't miss the great prelude music by The River worship team!). We are grateful for the technology that allows us to worship together, even when we're apart.

Books! Books! Books!

We continue to add books to the giveaway going on in the church school room next to the library! This giveaway will continue for awhile, unless or until church school is able to go back to its regular format, using the smaller rooms. Stop by and find some fall and winter reading materials, all for free!



Dates to Remember

October 4 Church school starts 9am, Online Sunday School option
October 5, 12, 19, 26 Stitchers Group 9:30 am
October 7 Wednesday Worship, Church School, Confirmation starts
October 10 Book Club 12:30 Multipurpose Room
October 13 Church Council 6:30pm
October 18 Camp of the Cross Take out Breakfast fundraiser 11-1
October 25 Reformation Sunday, Confirmation



An Offering Mediation for You Today

(Source: *Faithful, Hopeful Loving stewardship resource published by the Ecumenical Stewardship Center in partnership with the Center for Faith and Giving.*)

There are few things that motivate us to action like seeing an instance of gross injustice or wanton cruelty. Yet we live in a world where these very things are increasingly woven into the fabric of life. In many ways, we have become accustomed to them. We shrug our shoulders and think, “Well, I can’t do anything about it.” Thus, we sink deeper into the quicksand of the status quo where the rich grind the faces of the poor and the strong trample the rights of the weak. We could wonder if it makes any difference in our world when people gather to sing and pray and give and receive each Sunday. Let us imagine today that it does make a difference – God knows it, and in the heart of our hearts, we know it too. Part of that difference comes from our giving to support the ministries of our church and our outreach ministries.

Some questions for you to ponder or use as conversation starters:

Acknowledging it is not just what we can do, it is also how we can be, ask yourself: Can I be more loving, caring, and attentive? Can I be a better listener? How can I tune in better to the needs of others?

What gifts do you have that you can add to the work of Christ? What can you do in your church or community to show God’s love?

Upgrades to Equipment Almost Complete!

Our chief “tech” volunteer, Tom Harris, has overseen quite an overhaul of our equipment in the production booth: computers, software, projectors and various connecting parts that most of us don’t understand. Suffice it to say, the systems are being upgraded from analog to high definition, and simplified. You probably have noticed a difference in the images on the screens, and the software that allows us to put the words to the songs on the livestream as well as in the sanctuary. The new HD cameras have arrived. Special thanks to Tom and to John Kraft, our chief engineer, the project will soon be finished.

Thanks also to some of you who have give special donations to make this possible! We have only about \$2500 left to cover. If you would like to make a donation - of any size - toward these upgrades, please do – just be sure to designate it that way. Again – we are so grateful for these volunteers, these donations, and the technology that allows us to worship together from afar!

Pancake and Sausage Brunch-To-Go to Benefit Camp of the Cross

We all love the pancake and sausage breakfasts with Wishek sausage that we do every year as a benefit for Camp of the Cross. As your church council realized we couldn't do that in December this year as usual, AND realized that Camp of the Cross needs our support more than ever – a new idea was born!

On Sunday, October 18, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., we will do a drive up Brunch-To-Go with pancakes, Wishek sausage, butter and syrup, all in a clamshell and complete with silverware/napkins.

You simply drive up to the back door, tell the attendant how many meals you want, and give them your donation as a runner quickly fetches your brunch! Easy peasy!

To ensure we cook enough and are ready at the right times so everything goes efficiently, we appreciate it if you can RSVP to the church (223-1001 or churchsecretary@midconetwork.com) and tell us how many meals you anticipate picking up and what time you'd like them.

If you aren't in town or can't participate that day, an online donation link will be available on our FaceBook page and in an email sent to everyone that week. Or, of course, you can send or drop off a check – just memo it for CCM benefit.

Altar Focus for October – Fresh Start Kits for Heart River Bridges of Hope

We normally collect school supplies as our Altar Focus for September. Because things were so different this year, we paused that effort – but some of you brought them anyway. We thank you! The Abused Adult Resource Center received those items, to help children start off the year well.

October's Altar Focus is items to help with Bridges of Hope. This is a ministry of Heart River Lutheran Church in Mandan, which meets on the campus of the Youth Correctional Center. Bridges of Hope is an outreach ministry to help those who've left YCC and are starting anew. They give out "fresh start kits" with basic items in a small duffel or backpack. Here are the items included (NEW, please):

Towels

Shampoo

Toothbrush

Deodorant

Lotion

Hair gel

Fun socks

Work socks

Small notebook/pen

Washcloths

Conditioner

Toothpaste

Nail polish

Dental floss

Target/Walmart gift cards

Wool socks

Gum or candy

Movie passes

Altar Focus continued

Pastor Gail Hagerty and Deacon Alex Benson are the pastoral leaders of Heart River and Bridges of Hope. They say they will take any items, but especially needed are winter hats and gloves, especially men's items. Also, black or gray backpacks (trying to avoid gang affiliation colors), water bottles, or \$20 Target or Walmart gift cards. (Gift cards may be dropped off at our church office for safekeeping.)

We will also check our quilts for some, especially for boys, as Heart River gives one to each person who leaves YCC as a sign to remember that wherever they go, they are wrapped in God's love. Thank you for helping with this effort this October!

LWR Pickup Oct. 15-16

There wasn't a pickup for Lutheran World Relief this spring, due to COVID. However, the fall pickup is on track! We have some quilts and some other kits to deliver to Midwest Motor Express on October 15/16. If you can help with this, let the church office know. The use of a pickup would make it simple. Thanks!

Online Giving Options

We want to say a giant THANK YOU to all of you who, even through this pandemic, have given to help LCC continue its ministry to the congregation, the community, and beyond. We are not yet back to "normal" giving levels, but have managed to stay in good shape as expenses have also been down. They will go up now as more programs start up again and the building is used more frequently, so we are grateful for all your continuing gifts.

Since many are not comfortable coming back yet, we are grateful to have so many options for giving. There is a button on our website, churchofthecross.org, that makes it very simple. If you are a smart phone or device user, you can also get and use the app "Give Plus". (You just have to be careful to choose the Lutheran Church of the Cross in Bismarck, rather than a different one somewhere else!) Or, you can simply text a number to our dedicated giving line (701)969-7030. So, for instance, if you want to give \$25, you simply text 25 to that number. (If you have a Vanco account already set up through our online button or app or texting, it will work across all of these approaches.) All of your giving, through any of these ways, will also be recorded on the statements you get from the church a couple times each year. If you have questions about any of these, call Pastor Lisa or our treasurer, Art Wheeler. And again: Thank you!

Wednesday Worship Coordinator Sought

We are looking for someone to coordinate our Wednesday evening worship services and rehearse with our Living Water singers in preparation. Could this be you? Training is provided! Please speak to worship coordinator Robin Johnson, Pastor Lisa or Deacon Janie to learn more if you are interested. (PS we are fun to work with!)

Children Youth & Family Ministry



October 2020

Church School Fall Schedule

October 4	Adam and Eve	October 7	Adam and Eve
October 11	Joseph and His Brothers	October 14	Joseph and His Brothers
October 18	Joseph helps his family	October 21	No Church School
October 25	No Church School	October 28	Joseph helps his family
November 1	Baby Moses	November 4	Baby Moses
November 8	The burning bush	November 11	No Church School
November 15	The Red Sea	November 18	The Red Sea
November 22	The 10 Commandments	November 25	No Church School
November 29	No Church School	December 2	The 10 Commandments
December 6	Joshua	December 9	Joshua
December 13	Jesus is born	December 16	Jesus is born
December 20	TBA	December 23	No Church School
December 27	No Church School	December 30	No Church School

Confirmation Fall Schedule, Wednesdays at 7pm

October 7	Intro to Catechism/Lutheran Handbook and Sacraments review - 6 th s graders meet in the building, 7 th and 8 th online
October 14	Martin Luther - What is a Lutheran - 7 th graders meet in the building, 6 th and 8 th graders meet online
October 21	No SCHOOL OCT 22 AND 23 TEACHERS CONVENTION
October 28	Service Learning - what is service? All grades meet online
November 4	How to Read the Bible, what is in it and why do we read it? 8 th graders meet in the building, 6 th and 7 th graders meet online.
November 11	No School
November 18	How to Read the Bible, what is in it and why do we read it? 6 th graders meet in the building, 7 th and 8 th graders meet online.
November 25	No School Nov 26 and 27 th thanksgiving break
December 2	Service Learning - importance on giving of time and talents - All grades meet online
December 9	Grief and Loss - consoling someone else - 7 th graders meet in the building, 6 th and 8 th graders meet online
December 16	Forgiveness - how to forgive someone - 8 th graders meet in the building, 6 th and 7 th graders meet online.
December 23	No School, Christmas break
December 30	No School Christmas break

TRUNK or Treat

Join us for Trunk or Treat on Saturday October 31st from 2pm-3:30pm, for some Halloween fun. Due to Covid-19 there will be no face painting or indoor activities. We encourage everyone to wear masks and gloves. For those providing a trunk we ask that only one person hand out candy with a mask and gloves on. There will be one way traffic so please once you have gone through do not go back through the trunks, to help slow the spread. We will need volunteers to sign up for trunks, and candy donations. Please sign up on the poster board in the Narthex or talk to Janie.

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 Water Service
6:15pm (School year)

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

Lisa Ahlness, Pastor

Office Hours:
M -TH 8-4pm
Fri. 8-noon School Year
Summer Hours 9-1

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. 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”