



# The Cross Word

September 2020

*From Pastor Lisa,*

*"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."*

2 Timothy 1:7

Happy September, everyone! We are nearing the end of summer; the breeze no longer feels like a blowtorch on hot days, but rather cools us. Harvest is in full swing. We finally got some rain to quench the parched area in which we live. And yes, school is starting.

So this is normally the time I would write and say that the backpacks are ready, there is excitement in the air, and everyone's eager to get back to their fall routines and see all their friends again.

All of which is true, of course, even this year! And yet, this year has brought us so much more than excitement: many more precautions even than usual. Distance, sanitizing, masks. Meeting outdoors more than we might have in the past, or online. Differences at communal meals. And for parents, some extra fear and trepidation and headaches around accomplishing work schedules and distance learning for kids, too.

Even church has changed! The place where we come to see friends, to be strengthened for the journey, to worship God, to sing. No meals or coffee together (and we really like that fellowship!). Some of us join in from afar, making use of the technology that allows us to be safe from any possible virus encounters and still participate. Hurray for that technology, and for Tom Harris and the team of volunteers that make it possible for us to use it! Hurray for the technology that allows our musicians to record themselves at home and still be blended seamlessly with those in-house by our brilliant worship coordinator, Robin!

Despite the changes, we are still able to do what worship is about: praise God, be strengthened and nourished, and be sent out to serve others. Be of good courage, for we have God's spirit of love and self-discipline. We can do this! Thanks be to God! "See" you soon!

Pastor Lisa

## Angels Among Us

Our angels this month will be familiar to many of you: Jon and Pam Hanson. The Hansons have been at LCC for many years and it is “home” for them. Their kids grew up here, and now some of the grandkids are, too! Back in the day, Pam and Jon were part of a team of youth leaders that led a very active youth program. Jon has often served on council, including all three executive positions, served on the transition support task force after Pastor Donna announced her upcoming retirement, and chaired the call committee when Pastor Lisa was called as pastor. Jon sings in The River worship team, likes to take part in the winter men’s retreat, and helps mow and care for our buildings and grounds as well. You can see and appreciate him in our non-pandemic summers as one of the grill meisters at our summer picnics!

Pam co-chairs Helping Hands, a truly fantastic ministry that takes meals to grieving families and others who could use a boost; organizes groups to go Christmas caroling; makes very creative gifts and delivers them to our members who don’t get out much, as well as visiting and sending cards. They also put on a “Spring Fling” event for our elders that is always great fun. Pam is also one of the coordinators of our Faith and Care groups, serves on Altar Guild, is part of the early morning Bible Study group, and comes to the spring women’s retreat at Camp of the Cross. For some reason, she never seems tired, and that warm smile never fails.

Take a moment to appreciate these two energizer bunnies for all they do to enrich our church family, and pat them on the back when you see them. Thank you, Pam and Jon!

## LCC Annual Blood Drive on Sept. 16!

Once again, as a “God’s Work, Our Hands” project, LCC will host a fall blood drive for Vitalant (formerly United Blood Services). It will be in the fellowship hall (no in house programs at that point yet, so lots of spacing and full sanitizing) on **Wednesday, Sept. 16, 4:30-6:30 p.m.** They are in great need of blood and the good news is, we all have some! As a bonus, all donors are tested for Coronavirus antibodies, so you will receive that benefit as well. Only two hours – please check your schedule and call Pastor Lisa at 701-220-9011 to sign up, or go to [www.bloodhero.com](http://www.bloodhero.com) and use sponsor code H2380.

## Books for Giveaway!

We were given the opportunity to give away Pastor Muriel Lippert’s library. It is all set up in the church school room next to the LCC library, along with boxes and bags for you to use. Please stop after worship and browse – there are all kinds of terrific books: children’s, history, music, art, culture, theology, devotions, prayer, novels, North Dakota, and more.

The items will be available through Sunday, Sept. 13, at which time most will be taken to the rostered ministers’ conference or to the Bismarck Public library for their book sale. You may stop in any time during office hours, or call in the afternoon to see if we’re here. Don’t miss these great books!

# Children Youth & Family Ministry

September 2020



## Church School and Confirmation update:

As education planning in our school systems continue to change on what seems like a daily basis, so does our education program here at LCC. Our plan is to follow what the schools put in place. If schools do education only online, so will LCC. LCC education will be offered by using a hybrid model. If someone tests positive for COVID-19 in our church community and has been at the church, all education will move online for at least one week and will be evaluated after 7 days from someone testing positive for COVID-19

\*For both Church school and confirmation there will be no snacks or food allowed or served at the church unless you bring your own and it is prepackaged and you do not share with others.

\*Our current tentative plan is for church school to start on **Sunday, October 4th at 9am**, Wednesday School will start on **Wednesday October 7th at 7pm**. Church school will only be offered online on Sunday mornings at 9am.

\*Confirmation orientation will be on **Wednesday, September 30th at 6:30pm** for students 6th-8th grade.

\*Confirmation lessons will begin on **Wednesday, October 4th at 7pm**.

\*Confirmation students who will be confirmed this fall (9th graders) will meet at **6:30pm Wednesday, September 16th** for their mentor meeting, (parents are welcome to attend this meeting. 9th graders will meet again on **Wednesday, September 30th at 7:30pm** for the 5 promises meeting with their mentor.

\*Church school for the first few weeks will be led by Deacon Janie, then our hope is to have volunteers help lead the lesson. We will be using an all age kids curriculum. We will not be using classrooms and will host church school as one big group in the fellowship hall for Sunday students and the multi purpose room for Wednesday students. The lesson itself will be around 20 minutes, then an activity that families can do at the table or take home with them. Currently, there will be no singing during church school. Currently, we do not require people to wear masks in the building, but it is highly encouraged. If we see that kids can keep a mask on for the time we are together then we can start to introduce singing back into church school.

\*Church school will still start at 9am Sundays in the fellowship hall , and 7pm on Wednesdays in the multi-purpose room. Every week families will receive an email with the zoom link, lesson, and an activity so that if they choose to stay home that week they can participate. Please know that this is only because of the pandemic that we will host church school like this, and plan to go back to the way we used to do church school when the pandemic is over.

\*For church school families, we ask that if you are able please bring to the first week of church school a scissors, box of crayons, markers, a pencil, glue and glue stick. So then moving forward each student will have their own craft supplies in a zip lock bag with their name on it to help with less contact touch points and less spreading of germs. The church will have some supplies here at the church.

\*Confirmation will be hosted on Wednesday's following an A, B, C, model. 6th graders will meet week one, 7th graders will meet week two, and 8th graders will meet week three. More information on this model will be announced in the next few weeks. Please watch your email, website, and social media outlets for updates. From 7 pm– 7:15pm confirmation students will meet in their small groups like normal. Then at 7:15pm students will meet in the fellowship hall for large group lessons so that youth can safely physically distance themselves. Families will have the option to zoom in if they do not feel comfortable coming to the building. Please remember there will be no food served at the church on Wednesday nights, you may bring in your own food but can not share with others.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Janie at [lccdod@midconetwork.com](mailto:lccdod@midconetwork.com) or by phone 701-223-1001 or 701-301-9917

Lutheran Church of the Cross  
1004 E Highland Acres Rd  
Bismarck ND 58501  
701.223.1001  
churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

# 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"**