



The CrossWord

January 20201



From Pastor Lisa

God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful.

(1 Corinthians 12:4-11, The Message translation)

Do you have a meal that you love, that brings up memories whenever it is served? I was thinking about this over the holidays, as there are many for me at this time. Living Lutheran (the ELCA magazine; also online at www.livinglutheran.org) did an article in November on food-and-faith stories (complete with recipes!), as the two are often connected. Look it up if you would enjoy this – I really did! Pre-pandemic, we were playing around with planning a fun night of “stone soup”, if you know that story. So the submission to this series that really caught my attention was this one, which was added online after the article was published:

Stewardship stew *By Anita Simpson*

A few years ago, my husband, Tom, was leading our church's stewardship campaign. We are members of Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal-Lutheran in rural Galax, Va. Good Shepherd is one of a few Episcopal-Lutheran federated congregations in Virginia.

For the last Sunday of the campaign, Good Shepherd held a stewardship meal during fellowship that featured “stewardship stew.” A basic recipe was distributed to about five people, who were told to follow the recipe but to add one more ingredient to make the dish their own and to bring it to church that Sunday. The cooks added oregano, a touch of hot pepper, peas, etc. When all the pots of stew were gathered, they were dumped into one large pot! What a surprise to everyone who worked hard on their pot of stew. The point was that we all come together as one to share our time, talents and treasures, and we combine with and complement each other as we worship God and support one another and our community through good times and hard times.

The combined stew was wonderful and was accompanied by bread made by one of our members. The bowls were licked clean, and the symbolism was not lost on those who were present. We realized that while we all have a lot of things in common, we all have talents and tastes that are different. The individual stews were good, but the combined stew was even better.

The same is true of each of us, and it is our differences that make us stronger in our service to God.

Ingredients

2 pounds lean beef, cut into stew-sized pieces

1 quart water or beef or vegetable broth

2 cups sliced potatoes

1 cup sliced, cubed turnips

1 cup sliced carrots

1-2 onions, chopped

3 tablespoons flour

Salt and pepper

One clove garlic

Your favorite herb, spice or vegetable

Instructions

Sauté the meat, stirring constantly. When all surfaces are well-browned, put it into the soup pot.

Cover with water/stock and bring to a boil; skim fat off the surface. Simmer for one hour.

Add the carrot, turnip, onion and potato; simmer for one more hour.

Thicken with 3 tablespoons of flour, diluted with enough cold water to pour easily.

Let the stew come to a boil again and simmer for 10 minutes.

Isn't she right about that? "It is our differences make us stronger in our service to God". We might not be thinking along those lines in a moment when we'd really just rather do it our way!

Well, the recipe sounds good, and so does an evening like the one Anita describes. We look forward to the days when food and fellowship are once again central to our being together. And meanwhile, we give thanks for one another, even in all our differences. Be sure to add your own spice into the mix- our church family will be stronger for it!

Blessings in the new year. See you in church, even if it's online!

Pastor Lisa

Annual Meeting January 24, 2021 scheduled right after church. Participation may be through Zoom only, or in person, or both options based on the positivity numbers. For more information on what Zoom is and how it is done contact Janie and she can explain the process. That decision needs to be made close to the time of the Annual Meeting based on the Covid numbers at that time.. Please look for more information to come through the weekly updates from the secretary. What will be missing on that day is the customary, delicious potluck immediately following the meeting. Committee Reports are due for the Annual Report.

Financial Peace University at LCC begins Feb. 21!

Did you know that 89% of the people in a typical American congregation don't have a financial safety net? Shocked? We were, too. But there's HOPE! And that hope is Financial Peace University. FPU is a nine-lesson course taught by Dave Ramsey and his team of financial experts and co-coordinated by Deacon Janie and Pr. Lisa here at LCC. With FPU, we will learn step by step how to handle money using biblical wisdom and common sense. Through life-changing videos, online tools and resources, and group accountability, we will learn how to create and stick to a budget, save for emergencies, pay off debt, and plan for the future.

Just imagine the impact we could have on the community if we were all debt-free! Marriages and families would be strengthened. People would be freed up to be outrageously generous. This kind of hope will ignite change in our entire community!

Join us starting Sunday, Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. All are welcome! Bring along your supper if you like. There will be a zoom (online) option for those who don't want to come in person, and we will practice safe distancing for those who do. Questions? Call or email Deacon Janie or Pastor Lisa, and watch for further announcements with the direct link to the class.

Angels Among Us

The word laughter and the act of laughing comes to mind when thinking of Patty Hanson. Laughing seems to emanate from her. She approaches life by trying to see "the funny" side in life first yet always willing to deal with the realities of life. Her concern for family, friends and those in need is evident by her bringing their names to the prayer list and prayer chain. She believes in the community and power of prayer.

Jerry is her complimentary, quiet side kick. A man of few words who enjoys working with his hands. He has made the wooden crosses for the church that are used in the fellowship hall. Their home is a reflection of his woodworking talents. Everywhere one looks Patty can tell you that Jerry did that, ..a kitchen, a bathroom, a fireplace mantel, and, and, and. Jerry is too modest to say much about his craftsmanship.

Together she and Jerry support Carrie Kids. They set up the tree, make the jeans ornaments, deliver the packages to Carrie several times each season, take down the tree and then marvel at the generosity of this church reaching out to those in need. This year was no exception.

Patty has also made many simple Wednesday meals to help the singers and families come to a relaxing environment before church. She is a knitter and a quilter and an avid reader contributing book reports for the CrossWord. Together they tend their beautiful yard.

Both are retired now enjoying being at home and being in one another's company.

Gospel Seeds - January 2021 Western ND Synod

A MESSAGE FROM SYNOD STAFF

“¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” Matthew 2: 1-12

Don't pack away the Christmas decorations just yet for while the 2020 calendar may have come down and a new one taken its place the season celebrating Christ's birth isn't quite over. The Christmas season extends through January 6, when we celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord.

On this day the Christian church remembers the arrival of the magi – wise ones who journeyed from faraway lands following the light of a star bearing gifts worthy of honoring the arrival of a king. But they do not find the king where one might expect. He is not found in the halls of the palace in mighty Jerusalem. Instead, the star leads them to a modest village, Bethlehem, to a home where they find the child and his mother. Here in this ordinary place, these outsiders pause to pay homage, recognizing the deep presence of the Holy masked in the seemingly ordinary.

Epiphany is an easy day to skip over. It doesn't garner the fanfare of Christmas. This year it lands on a Wednesday, smack dab in the middle of the week. It would be easy to rush on by so we can just get on with the business of looking forward. The days are getting longer now. The calendar is fresh. We can close the book on 2020, a year many of us can't put behind us fast enough. We want desperately to rush headlong into the new year hoping for better things to come. But Epiphany offers us an important reminder to not get ahead of ourselves. There is value in pausing to recognize the holy in the humble.

Human nature leads us to often spend our days either dwelling on the past or planning for the future. But if we take anything away from 2020, may it be a greater appreciation for the present moment, for what is. The significance of time spent with others. The very gift of breath and life and relationship.

Epiphany means sudden illumination, new insight, a revelation. Perhaps the Epiphany for us now is to understand more deeply not only that Christ came to us in a stable long, long ago, or that Christ will indeed come again at some undesignated time and place in the future, but also that Christ is Emmanuel, God With Us, right now.

Perhaps our Epiphany is recognizing again the significance of pausing to honor the very holy in our midst. Might we pause to recognize Christ in the eyes of the ones with whom we sit? Might we practice gratitude for the small and beautiful gifts God offers us each day-the richness of a meal, the comfort of a conversation, the beauty of creation? Might we grow in our sense of the Holy Spirit weaving itself throughout our days? Might we not rush the journey, but rather pause to pay homage to our King by opening our own treasure chests brimming with gifts such as justice, compassion, and love ready to be poured out on our neighbors in honor of our King.

Children Youth & Family



January 2021

1st communion



- 1st communion classes are fast approaching. Classes are for 3rd graders and anyone else who is ready to take communion. Please contact Janie to sign up. First communion will be received on Thursday, April 1st at 7pm. Class times and dates will be announced next month.

• 3rd Grade Bibles

3rd grade bibles will be received during worship on Sunday January 24th and Wednesday January 27th. Classes for 3rd grade bibles will be on Sunday, January 10th for Sunday kids and Wednesday January 13th for Wednesday kids. Parents watch for an email!

January Church School Schedule:

January 3 No Church School

January 10 Ruth and Naomi

January 17 No Church School

January 24 God Calls Samuel

January 31 Memory Work - The Lord's Prayer

February 7 David and Goliath

January 6 No Church School

January 13 Ruth and Naomi

January 20 Deborah

January 27 God Calls Samuel

February 3 Memory Work- The Lord's Prayer

February 10 David and Goliath

January Confirmation Schedule:

January 6 No Confirmation

January 13 How to Pray/ Prayer Practices - 6th graders in person, 7th and 8th graders meet online.

January 20 Prayer Practices - 7th graders in person, 6th and 8th graders meet online.

January 27 Little Free Food Pantries - Service Learning, all grades meet online

February 3 Anatomy of a church - 8th graders in person, 6th and 7th graders meet online.

LCC Photo Scavenger Hunt!

Safety First: please do not put yourself or others in harm for these photos. Masks are encouraged if encountering people outside your “circle”. Photos can be texted or emailed to Janie. (lccdod@midconetwork.com).

The Scavenger hunt can be done on your own, with family, or with friends You have the whole month of January to complete it. Points will be awarded, and multiple gifts cards will be given to the:

- Most photos achieved off the list
- Most Creative
- Whatever other idea I think deserves an award

A Special \$15 Gift Card will be given to anyone who can COMBINE the most pictures in one. For example: a pink house with a “for sale” sign, large blow-up decoration, big cross with an American Flag.

Take a Picture with...

- 1) On the steps of the State Capital Building
- 2) With the biggest blow-up yard decoration you can find
- 3) Playing on a swing set
- 4) A big cross
- 5) A creative selfie with all in the group
- 6) A “For Sale” Sign
- 7) Everyone reading a book
- 8) Something pink
- 9) An American Flag
- 10) Something that begins with the letter Z
- 11) Filling up a Little Free Food pantry.
- 12) A Downtown Wall Mural
- 13) The Big Boy
- 14) In a Boat
- 15) The Scheels Statues
- 16) Something that displays a rule
- 20) The oldest version iPhone you can find
- 21) An Act of Kindness shared of your own!
- 22) Mailing a card to a loved one.

Trivia Scavenger hunt

- 1.) I am usually found in New York City at Ellis Island; however, my doppelganger is hanging out around town. Find me and take a selfie with me striking your best pose.
- 2.) I am usually referred to as a symbol of freedom in the United states. There is a huge one of me in a park. Take a picture with me with your biggest wingspan!
- 3.) I am a unique shape, and I can be found at a baseball park or a jewelry store.

HAVE FUN!!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
January 2021						
3 9:00 NO Church school 10:00 Worship	4 Needlework Group 10:00am	5	6 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm NO Church School or Confirmation	7 8pm AA Mtg.	8	9 12:30 Book Club
10 9:00 Church school 10:00 Worship	11 Needlework Group 10:00am	12 5:30 Committee Mtgs. 6:30 Church Council	13 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Church School, Confirmation	14 8pm AA Mtg.	15	16
17 9:00 NO Church School 10:00 Worship	18 Needlework Group 10:00am	19	20 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Church School, Confirmation	21 8pm AA Mtg.	22	23
24 9:00 Church School 10:00 Worship/3 Grade Bibles 11:00 Annual Meeting	25 Needlework Group 10:00am	26	27 9:00 MM Bible Study 6:15pm Worship/3 Grade Bibles 7:00pm Church School- Confirmation	28 8pm AA Mtg.	29	30
31						

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E-News

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

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”