



The CrossWord

April 2021

From Pastor Lisa



"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10b

I caught a brief video post on facebook the other day by Kate Bowler (a writer I highly recommend, by the way) that really caught my attention.

She observed that as we are inching toward a future, thanks to vaccines, that we are very excited about, some folks are posting nostalgic pictures of mountaintop moments – their version of when they were on the red carpet at the awards ceremony, say - and saying stuff like "I'm just ready to get back to life abundant – you know, the life God promised for us."

Unfortunately there's a little confusion there about what that term "abundant life" means. It comes from the verse in the gospel of John quoted above. And now in Lent and hopefully nearing the end of a pandemic, we're all hearing that and saying – "yeah, that sounds great – let's have us some of that abundant life!" But do we mean what Jesus meant?

This time – the end of Lent and hopefully of a pandemic, too – is a great time to ask: "what *is* the **good life**? I suspect we may have a way more sophisticated response than we might've last year, because we now recognize the importance and magnificence of the love between people, the connections, the webbing between us that makes us feel whole. Life feels good and full and beautiful, but not necessarily because it includes an Aspen ski vacation for everyone or someone shouting at us about our evening gown or jewels.

We're not going to get the red carpet, Kate Bowler said. We're going to get life.

So before we get confused again about what "life abundant" means, in our "new" church and home and school and work lives: after all we've learned this year, may it include among all things justice and beauty and love and connection. (Oh, and restaurants) And gratitude.

God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Lisa

Angels Among Us

Joyce Wahl is our newest member of LCC and is truly an angel among us. She is the one who has been gifting people here at LCC with her seasonal plastic canvas creations. She leaves them at the back of the church for those who wish to take them. (She was doing this long before coming a member.) Joyce lived in Bismarck raising her 4 children many years ago. She and her husband moved away to Minnesota for work, and now a widow, she recently moved back to live with her granddaughter. Being retired she helps her granddaughter foster fur babies and is heavily involved with crafts. Her broken wrist this winter did not stop her much. Her Last Supper cross stitch picture is in my office on view for the season. She likes being involved in the church which is so evident already. She is even coming to the Monday morning stitchers group. Instead of going back to the church she once belonged to, she chose LCC because of its small size and family orientation. Joyce, we welcome you!

Thanks! Thanks!! Thanks!!!

- for honoring others in your gifts to Heat the Church.
- for posting your prayers on the prayer wall and for lifting these prayers to God. And to the prayer chain, our constant prayer warriors.
- for your participation in both Lenten altar focuses: our m&m tubes filled with money to help our sister church in the Central African Republic and the wonderful growing mountain of personal care kits that will soon be sent off to Lutheran World Relief.
- for sponsoring flowers for the Resurrection Garden to beautify our altar space for Easter.
- for reading the CrossWord! Council minutes are now available on the oak cabinet in the narthex, or we can mail or email them to you, if you like.

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 1st 5:30 and 7pm: Living Last Supper and First Communion, livestreamed

Good Friday, April 2nd 7 pm: Tenebrae Service – music, reading and extinguishing of lights, livestreamed

Easter Sunday, April 4th, 8am and 10:00am in person with livestreamed at 10 only.

Women's Retreat at Camp of the Cross April 30 through May 2 at Lutheran Camp of the Cross! Costs: full weekend of staying 2 nights including meals will be \$110.00 or for Saturday only the cost will be \$30.00 (including meals). Checks may be written to LCC with memo for Women's Retreat! Let Sally know if you are planning on attending. 701 390-3049 or sallygren@hotmail.com. The camp is requesting masks if distancing isn't possible, to sleep one per room (8) upstairs and 2 per room (3X2) downstairs. The group can spread out for discussion in the new dining area or downstairs in the retreat building. Deb Carpenter is planning interesting topics for discussion.

Interested in Joining LCC as a New Member?

We have not been holding new member classes during the pandemic, but now is the perfect time to welcome you anew! If you are interested in joining LCC, or in hearing more about it, please call the church office or let Pastor Lisa or Deacon Janie know. Make sure we have contact info for you, and we will check in to see whether you prefer a class or one-on-one conversation and set up a New Member Sunday!

Book Lovers

The LCC Book Club invites you to join us for an informal book discussion once a month. We read a variety of books and meet at LCC on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:30. (Note the changed day and time).

Upcoming discussions are THE NEWS OF THE WORLD, by Paulette Jules, on April 14th, and ANXIOUS PEOPLE, by Fredrik Backman on May 12.

We welcome new members! For more information call Marjo at 255-0062.

April's Altar Focus

Power of Play Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit in Bismarck that serves local pediatric patients. Power of Play works to provide pediatric patients with items to help put them at ease during their healthcare experience. The hospital and emergency room can be a scary place for children. Toys, games, books, art supplies, and other items are effective in helping children cope during healthcare encounters through distraction, positive reinforcement, and visual support. Easing fear and anxiety in the healthcare setting leads to more productive outcomes and a better healthcare experience for children.

Items that we are in need of are:

Play-Doh and Play-Doh toys, Bubbles

Small Lego Sets for boys and girls

Markers, Crayons, Paint and brushes

Colored Pencils, Sketch Pads

Coloring books for boys and girls

Activity Books for ages 8-adult

Bead kits, Card Games

Sarah Dahl, MBA, CT (ASCP)

President, Power of Play Foundation

www.powerofplayfoundation.com

(701)226-6844

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP CRAIG April's Gospel Seeds

“But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” (Mark 16:7-8)

Sisters and brothers in Christ of the Western North Dakota synod, grace and peace to you from our risen Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ!

A few days before Easter Sunday 2020, I found myself on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River at the Double Ditch Indian Village State Historical Site. It was shortly before sunrise, a time of day that I am very rarely awake to see. I was recording a sermon that would be part of Good Shepherd's Easter Sunday worship service. An Easter Sunday worship service offered to an online worshipping community that formed in just a few short weeks as a global pandemic took hold of every part of life. A global pandemic that most of us believed would only last for a few more weeks and then everything would return to “normal” again.

As we worship together – online and in-person – on Easter Sunday this year, have things returned to “normal” yet? Maybe. Maybe not. Or maybe the better question to ask is, should they?

The Easter story from Mark's gospel that we hear this year speaks of fear, terror and amazement. Those are words that evoke emotions only found in an ancient Biblical story. They speak truth to each one of us. And there was far more than just one moment of terror and amazement in the past year. Social and political unrest in our nation and in nations around the world pitted neighbor against neighbor. Angry debates unfolded over how or if we should care for one another during the pandemic. It divided many of our congregations in ways they had never seen before and in ways that they may never fully recover from.

Like the women at the tomb, fear, terror, and amazement consumed us in 2020.

The young man dressed in a white robe who met Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome at the tomb said to them, “Do not be alarmed.” The man goes on to tell them that Jesus has risen from the dead just as he said he would and that the risen Christ was going ahead of them. They didn't need to waste time longing for the “normal” they had known before Jesus' resurrection to return or angrily protest who they thought God loved more or argue about any variety of things that would divide their communities to the point of destroying them.

They were to confidently and joyfully go. They would meet Jesus there.

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP CRAIG continued...

Life as they knew it would never return to the normal of before. And wherever their journey took them next, they would never journey alone.

Maybe this is what Easter Sunday is calling us to do in 2021? To confidently and joyfully go, knowing that wherever we go, God is with us.

As she reflected upon her life of the past year, one ELCA pastor said, "I am so afraid that I will never be who I once was. And I am also afraid that I will be."

My Easter message over the Missouri River bluffs last year offered a challenge us to be "hope carriers." The image of being hope carriers still resonates with me this year. You and I will never be who we were before 2020 began. And because of the resurrection, we do not have to be afraid of that truth. Happy Easter!

Heat The Church

Thank you to the families of Sally & Terry Grenz, Art Wheeler, Roger & Cherie Krueger, LaVonne & Gary Hultin, Lisa and VanVechten Crane, Al & Rita Staloch, Darcy & Sara Rosendahl, Pam and Jon Hanson, Jim & Gloria Mattheis, Roger & Esther Anderson, Marjo & Jim Hewitson, Mark & Val Kunze, John & Janet Doerner, Mike & Tracy Geiermann, Jerry & Patty Hanson, Nancy Dockter, Rich & Judi Fockler John & Jean Kraft, Arvid & Shiela Mugaas, Paul Gurholt, Pat & Norlyn Schmidt, Lyle & Mary Lauf, Brian & Sarah Dahl, Sheila Seuss & Josh Hocker, Cheryl Neu, Earl & Marlene Larson, John & Myrtice Behan, Kelsey Sailer, who sponsored a day, a week, etc. in honor of a loved ones' birthday, anniversary, or other special event. We appreciate you!

Lenten Spiritual Practice Guides Available

Our Lenten series on Wednesdays this year was called Jesus on the Way, and reflected on the many ways and places we meet Jesus in our lives. (You can watch them online!) We learned a spiritual practice each evening. These are still available for you to take, on a table in the narthex.

Drive-In Breakfast Returns for Mother's Day!

Back by popular demand, our drive in breakfast will add to the fun on Mother's Day, May 9! We will have the ever popular Wishek sausage, and French toast and fruit as well! We could use someone to lead a Thrivent Action team to help buy the sausage, and will be looking for volunteers and a few other donations of items. (French bread; milk, eggs, fruit.) Call the office if you already know you'd like to help!

Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

April 2021



Graduation Sunday and Wednesday

Graduation Sunday will be held on Sunday May 16th and Wednesday May 19th, Parents of graduates watch your email for more information!

Youth Service Sunday and Wednesday

A youth service with our church school kiddos helping lead the worship service will be on Sunday, May 9th and Wednesday, May 12. Parents please watch your email for more information!

Senior High Youth Group

Senior High Youth group for grades 9-12 will be starting up again in April. Meet Janie at LCC on April 11th at 6pm for bible study, games, and ice cream! If Sunday does not work for you we will meet Wednesday April 14th at 3:30pm at TCBY for frozen yogurt and a bible study. Contact Janie if you have any questions!

April Church School Schedule:

April 4	No Church School	April 7	Queen Esther
April 11	Memory Work- Bible Verse John 3:16	April 14	Memory Work Verse John 3:16
April 18	Malachi's Words	April 21	Malachi's Words
April 25	Manna, Quail, and Water	April 28	The Lord is my Shepherd

April Confirmation Schedule:

April 7	Reformation pg. 52-54 - 7 th graders in person, 6 th and 8 th graders meet online.
April 14	Martin Luther pg. 55-60 - 8 th graders in person, 6 th and 7 th graders meet online
April 21	World hunger projects - Service Learning - all graders meet online
April 28	Church practices - 6 th graders in person, 7 th and 8 th graders meet online.
May 5	How can I participate and serve in my church? - 7 th graders in person, 6 th and 8 th graders meet online.
May 12	I am confirmed, now what? - 8 th graders in person, 6 th and 7 th graders meet online.

April 2021				1 Maundy Thurs- day 5:30 & 7:00 First Communion, Living Last Supper 8pm AA Mtg.	2 Good Friday 7pm Office closed	3
4 8:00 Easter Service 10:00 Easter Service NO church school	5 Needlework Group 9:30am	6	7 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Church School Confirmation	8 6:30pm Church Council 8pm AA Mtg.	9	10
11 9:00 Church school 10:00 Worship FPU 6pm Senior High Youth meet 6pm At LCC	12 Needlework Group 9:30am	13	14 1:30 Book Club Senior High Youth 3:30 @ TCBY 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Church School, Confirmation	15 8pm AA Mtg.	16	17
18 9:00 Church School 10:00 Worship FPU 6pm	19 Needlework Group 9:30am	20	21 9:00 MM Bible Study 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Church School Confirmation,	22 8pm AA Mtg.	23	24
25 9:00 Church School, 10:00 Worship FPU 6pm	26 Needlework Group 9:30am Knitting for Others 1:00pm	27	28 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Church School, Confirmation	29 8pm AA Mtg.	30 Women's Re- treat at COC	

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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 8-4pm
Fri. 8-noon School Year
Summer Hours 8 to noon
Mon.—Fri

Lutheran Church of the Cross

The Church Council meets once a month; the second Thursday 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”