



Lutheran
Church
Of The
Cross



The CrossWord

March 2021

From Pastor Lisa

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven... a time to tear, and a time to sew." Ecclesiastes 3:1,7

Some of you are crafty. I admire that about you. It is not my gift: mine is to appreciate the beauty and intricacy of the things you create.

When I was a college student studying for a semester in Austria, everyone knitted: Waiting for the bus, hanging out, and especially in class. (When they weren't smoking. Both of these things were a change from life at Concordia!) Many said it helped them concentrate. I thought that I should learn this and be one of the cool kids, too! I don't remember what I was trying to make. I think it was a scarf, which seemed like the most straightforward thing to try. I can still see the lavender yarn I chose. Knitting didn't look that hard when my friends all did it at 100 mph, but I sure couldn't get the hang of it. I was frustrated, trying to get the tension right, and not drop stitches, and manage the yarn and the needles. Things would go wrong and I had no idea what. Sometimes I'd have to take out a row. At least once I had to unravel the whole thing and start again.

Unraveled is the theme of our Sundays this Lent. We are hearing stories from Scripture about lives and hopes and dreams coming unraveled, and how God is present with us in those situations. But we will also hear about God doing some unraveling, too -taking apart the wrong things in our world and in us. Like in knitting, sometimes the best way forward is to unravel the whole thing and start fresh. Or, as Ecclesiastes tells us, there is a time to tear -to unravel -to take things apart.

The thing with knitting is that you can use that unraveled yarn again. You can roll it back up and it is ready for the next project, or for the fresh start at the current one. (I think I might still have that lavender yarn somewhere!) Once you have done the painful work of unraveling, you are ready for something new. God is all about unraveling things like sin, death, scarcity, fear, despair, shame, guilt, hard-heartedness, and injustice so that new things can come into being. Things like life and joy and peace and justice. God unravels us each day through baptism so that we can be knit again into the people God intends us to be.

There is a time to sew, and knit, and weave. All that used and unraveled yarn is ready to be made into something new and wonderful for the sake of the world. Through this year of pandemic, it has felt and still feels like everything is unraveling: scary and strange and uncertain. In the middle of this unraveling, it is pretty hard to see what new thing God might be about to start. God IS at work -even if we cannot see it. Join us in these next few weeks as we explore this theme of unraveling, and as we pray for the Holy Spirit to help us see what new thing God is creating out of the unraveled threads of our lives. One thing to be grateful for is that we are woven together in community, and that we can still “be” together, even when we are apart. If you miss a week, remember they are archived on our website and you can watch them there.

See you in worship!

Lenten Altar Focus – or Two!

For the past several years, we have joined congregations throughout the synod in raising money for our partner church in the Central African Republic. We have helped build schools, put roofs on churches, hire teachers, buy motorcycles for pastors to get from one congregation to another, supported the women’s center and a much needed medical facility. Right now there is tremendous upheaval and violent unrest once again in CAR. You can help. Join in the “Sweet Deal for CAR” – pick up a tube of mini M&M’s at church. Once you’ve enjoyed the treat, fill the tube up with change, bills, or checks memoed “CAR” and bring it back to church – either drop at the office or put in the offering plate. (Note: \$14 worth of quarters fits the tube perfectly.... as does a hundred dollar bill!) Let’s not stop caring when our brethren are in crisis. M&Ms will be available on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. Offerings for CAR can be accepted until May 31st. New this year is a Lenten devotional on CAR put together by Barb Holwegner from Faith Lutheran in Bismarck. Pick up a copy in the Narthex.

Focus #2 is Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. There is a need so great for these due to multiple disasters that LWR cannot keep up and is asking for our help. You will find descriptions of what goes in a kit on sheets throughout the narthex. You are welcome to create entire kits using the guidelines and bring them; if you prefer to bring just some of the items needed, please place them in the baskets by the altar focus bulletin board at the exit from the sanctuary.

Pastoral Visits Once Again Possible at Area Hospitals

The chaplains have let us know that pastoral visits are allowed. However, we can’t magically know if your loved one is hospitalized. Please let the church know you would like a visit so we can be sure to be there for you!

GIFTS Group Formed in Bismarck – You are welcome to come!

GIFTS stands for Growing In Faith To Serve, and is a lifelong faith formation opportunity that helps participants grow in their faith and share their faith through service and proclamation in their homes, congregations and wider community.

A new GIFTS group has started in the Bismarck area under the leadership of Pastor Brian Knutson and Pastor Mark Narum. After an informational gathering, the participants from several congregations named that they were looking for ways to grow deeper in their faith, while at the same time trying to figure out how they live their faith. They decided to meet every 4th Tuesday of the month via Zoom at 6:30 p.m., and that they would like to start by digging deeper into the book of Galatians and Martin Luther's writing on that book. This group is open to more participants! If you are intrigued, let Pr. Lisa know so she can get you the Zoom information. You can also learn more about the GIFTS program on the WND Synod website:

www.wndsynod.org

Angels Among Us

If you have attended a Wednesday Worship lately and wondered who is that guitar chick rocking out every week? Well, that my friends is Marin Traynor and she is a very gifted guitar player who loves sharing her gifts with us at LCC. She helps lead worship on Wednesday nights and helps coordinate the Living Water singers. Marin is a great leader of the youth program at LCC, she serves on the education board, has been a very active member of our youth groups, and she helps with teaching church school. Marin is also very active outside of Lutheran Church of the Cross, she is a sophomore at Bismarck High School and an avid science fan who actively participates in science Olympiad. If you see this science loving, guitar chick around feel free to give her an air high five and thank her for her many talents that she shares with us!

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!



LENT

Women's Retreat at Camp of the Cross

Women at LCC, we are planning the LCC Women's Retreat, April 30 through May 2 at Lutheran Camp of the Cross! The camp is requesting that we wear masks if distancing isn't possible, sleep one per room (8) upstairs and 2 per room (3X2) downstairs, we can spread out for discussion in the new dining area or downstairs in the retreat building. If need be there is also a house with three more bedrooms if we need the space for sleeping! At this point we will be the only group on site with Heather as our host. There is a large TV in the other spaces mentioned so we will be able to use audio visual where we chose.

Deb Carpenter is starting her research on a couple of topics for discussion and that will be kept to Saturday so those joining us for the day may participate.

Costs: full weekend of staying 2 nights including meals will be \$110.00 or if you come for Saturday only the cost will be \$30.00 (including meals). Checks may be written to LCC with memo for Women's Retreat!

All are welcomed me and we will try to follow healthy guidelines while enjoying time together safely!

Questions? Please call Sally 701 390-3049 or e-mail sallygren@hotmail.com

Wheeled Walkers with Seats available from LCC

We have been gifted with several walkers by families whose members no longer need them. These items are available for your use, even long term. We have three normal walkers, that you lift and push along for stability, and three wheeled walkers with brakes and seats to take a rest when needed. Please call the office if you or a loved one could use one of these walkers!



Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7 pm: Living Last Supper and First Communion

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

Easter Sunday, April 4, 8 am: in person worship; 10 am online. ***Please watch for more information; we are hoping there's a way to be in person at 10 am as well. We have to manage the numbers for everyone's safety. Watch for a survey and respond about your plans for attending.***

Wednesday Worship in Lent

No suppers this year, unfortunately – but join us Wednesdays in Lent for Worship at 6:15 p.m. Our theme on Wednesdays is “With Jesus on the Way,” with preachers from around town, music led by our Living Water team, and featuring a spiritual practice each night that you can take with you. These services are also being livestreamed, so if you can't join us on any night, you can watch another time. Thanks to our fine production team, all our livestreamed worship services are archived on the website for 90 days.

Unraveled Series and Prayer Wheel

What happens when our world falls apart? How do we press onward when our tightly-knit plans unravel into loose threads? What do we become when our identity -or the path we are on -comes undone? What if all of this is not the end we fear it will be? In our unraveling, sometimes life surprises us with unexpected joy, love, and hope -with a new beginning we could not have imagined. Sometimes we need God to unravel us, for we long to be changed. On Sundays this Lent, we are exploring stories of unraveled shame, identity, fear, grief, dreams, and expectations. These are stories where God meets us in the unraveling, weaving our plans -and us into something new. As part of this series, we will be working on a prayer wheel that reflects the unraveling of our lives and God's work of weaving us back together. These fabric strips will be incorporated into the project along the way. Thank you for sharing your prayers and hopes with us.

Instructions: The prayer wheel is located on a round table in the narthex, toward the back door. You are invited to write prayers on fabric strips and weave them into the wheel. Or, return them to us at worship or drop them off at the church office. Some ideas are below: 1. Write a short prayer to God naming something that has unraveled in your life, or asking God to unravel something in you that you wish to release. 2. Write a short prayer naming a plan that has fallen apart or a time when you felt unraveled. How has God been present in that time? 3. Fill in the blank: “Dear God, please weave _____ into my life.”

Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

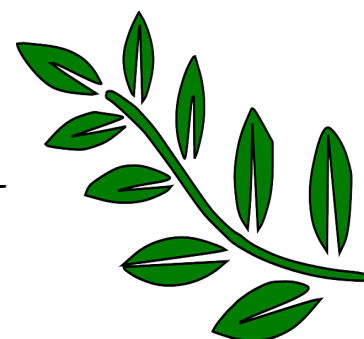
March 2021



1st Communion classes are fast approaching. Classes are for 3rd graders and anyone else who is ready to take communion. Sunday kids March 7th and March 28th at 9am. Wednesday kids March 17th and March 24th at 7pm. First Communion will be received on Thursday, April 1st at 7pm. Please contact Deacon Janie to sign up.

Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt

It has been Church of the Cross' tradition to have an Easter Egg hunt on Palm Sunday. COVID-19 has given us the opportunity to plan for an especially neat Easter egg hunt this year.



Families are invited to a city-wide scavenger hunt. There will be five stops that take your family on a Holy Week journey. Each stop will include candy-filled eggs. Families will need to pre-register for this event, so keep your eyes to your email for registration information. **Save-the-date for Sunday, March 28.** This fun event is for Sunday AND Wednesday families. We will also need candy and egg donations for this event. You can drop off your candy and egg donations to the church by Sunday March 21st. If you have any questions please contact Deacon Janie.

March Church School Schedule:

March 7	Memory Work – Apostles Creed	March 10	Memory Work – Apostles Creed
March 14	No Church School	March 17	Manna Quail, and Water
March 21	Daniel and the Lions	March 24	Daniel and the Lions
March 28	Deborah	March 31	No Church School – Holy Week
April 4	No Church School	April 7	Queen Esther

March Confirmation Schedule:

March 3 World Religions, liturgical and non-liturgical - 7th graders in person, 6th and 8th graders meet online.

March 10 Jesus and Miracles, Passion and Crucifixion - 8th graders in person, 6th and 7th graders meet online.

March 17 No Confirmation

March 24 Top ten bible miracles and what they mean - 6th graders in person, 7th and 8th graders meet online.

March 31 Holy Week—No Confirmation please attend worship April 1st and 2nd at 7pm

April 7 Reformation pg. 52-54 - 7th graders in person, 6th and 8th graders meet online.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March 2021	1 Needlework Group 9:30am	2	3 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Church School Confirmation	4 8pm AA Mtg.	5	6
7 9:00 Church school, First Communion class 10:00 Worship FPU 6pm	8 Needlework Group 9:30am	9	10 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Church School Confirmation	11 6:30pm Church Council 8pm AA Mtg.	12	13 12:30 Book Club
14 9:00 Church school 10:00 Worship FPU 6pm	15 Needlework Group 9:30am	16	17 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Church School, First communion class NO Confirmation	18 8pm AA Mtg.	19	20 Council Retreat 9-11am
21 9:00 Church School 10:00 Worship FPU 6pm	22 Needlework Group 9:30am	23	24 9:00 MM Bible Study 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Church School, Confirmation, First communion class	25 8pm AA Mtg.	26	27
28 9:00 Church School, First Communion Class 10:00 Worship FPU 6pm PALM SUNDAY Easter Egg Hunt	29 Needlework Group 9:30am	30	31 No Services or activities			

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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”