



The CrossWord

July 2021

From Pastor Lisa

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. Gen 1:31

Maybe it's the age I am now; maybe it's the move we made a few years back (after 22 years in our house) that horrified me with how.much.stuff.we.had – but the last couple of years I have been more and more taken with the movement called minimalism.

Don't get me wrong; I'm not "there" yet! You can tell by simply visiting my office. A youth director colleague once told me she didn't know piles of papers were a filing system until she met me. (insert sheepish grin here)

I think back on the days when I was so excited for my babies (even when they *were* babies) to have everything! From the shiny new clothes they grew out of in a flash, to the equipment – diaper genie! wipe warmer! – to the mountains of toys we all seemed to think a child "needs." This morphed in their later years into electronics: video games and movies (before we streamed everything) and Apple everything. We should be in their commercials! iPads, iPhones, Apple Watch, MacBook, iMac, Air Pods..... I'm sure I'm forgetting something. And, you understand, it wasn't just ONE of each of these items for us all to share!

A while ago, I went to Guatemala several times, with service teams of the God's Child Project, and my worldview began to change. I know some of you have had this experience as well. Kids playing with sticks and balls made of yarn or scraps of whatever they could find. Playing as kids do, with what the world outdoors provides, and happy! Imagine.

I think back to when I lived in Eastern Europe, and visiting Rumania. I went into a grocery store, which I love to do in different towns and different countries, too. Instead of 60 kinds of coffee, for example, like you would find in our stores - there were maybe four or five items of any kind, and long, long lines simply to get bread.

Now I don't mean to say in either of these instances that folks didn't have unfilled needs. But it got me thinking on what exactly our needs are.

What is enough? What is abundance? And when is much – too much?

God has created and given us to steward everything that is. Farmers know that if they don't take care of the land, it won't yield a good harvest. Ranchers know how to steward their animals. God gave us everything, our time, our skills, our stuff - and we have so much. How can we best use this "much" to help others without enough to live on, or with needs for certain things, or to brighten someone's life?

I invite you to join me today, this week, this month to choose something. Large, small, one time or often, and consciously think of how you are using God's gifts to serve someone else. I promise you, gratitude goes a long way to brighten your summer day, even if it's windy or buggy or hot.

Blessings on your July. I look forward to seeing you in church! Pastor Lisa

Angels Among Us

"Rolling Sunshine" is part of the email address of our angel this month, Allen Marx, Jr – better known to most of us as AJ Marx. The address gets it right, as AJ has a wide smile and is recognizable by his wheels, the electric wheelchair that helps him get to the many places he wants to go. AJ has been a very active member of LCC since he joined as a youngster. Even as a youth, he was interested in adult Bible studies and jumped right into the one on Revelation, a challenging book for anyone to study! He is not afraid to ask questions and to offer his own thoughts and perspective.

AJ is always looking for ways to serve God and make good use of his theology degree from UMary. He has spoken to confirmation classes. He has explored being a chaplain. AJ offers to spell our rostered leaders occasionally by writing the sermon for the week. He sings on the River worship team and serves on the Worship and Music Committee as well. Give AJ a high five and a thanks when you see him next!

Communion Changes

On Sunday, July 4, we will go back to serving communion as we did pre-pandemic, with attendees coming forward in two lines to receive the elements from servers at the front (who will be gloved). The ushers will assist you in coming forward; feel free to space yourselves as you are comfortable. Please extend your hands to receive the bread, one cupped in the other; the server will drop the bread into your hand. The cups of red wine and white grape juice will be spaced out in the tray, which will be offered to you to take your own. (If you prefer the server hand you one, just tell them.)

As always, you may receive communion in your seat. Please tell an usher of your preference as you enter the sanctuary, or signal an usher during communion.

If you have been picking up the all-in-one communion cups for home use, they will continue to be available for you. If you call ahead, we will have them ready!

LWR BABY CARE KITS

LCC Altar Focus

SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- Please include sizes between 6 and 24 months. Varying the sizes of the clothing items included will make the Baby Care Kit useful as the baby grows.
- Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted from leftover yarn, or made from heavy double knits. Select a pattern that suits your skill level. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front.
- Diapers can be made from flannel or even by recycling t-shirts. [Download a Diaper Tip Sheet from our website.](#)
- If knitting or crocheting receiving blankets, including one knitted/crocheted blanket and one flannel blanket will provide maximum versatility.
- Onesies can be cut and hemmed or serged to make a simple t-shirt.
- Gowns, rompers or top/pants sets can be substituted for sleepers.
- Gently used, clean clothing and blankets (no stains or tears) may be substituted for new ones. It is especially important that the items be in excellent condition, as used clothing is increasingly difficult to get through customs in many countries. Even one item that looks worn or stained to local officials can jeopardize the status of a whole shipment. All other items (diapers, towel, soap) in the kit must be new.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH BABY CARE KIT

TWO lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies ®)

TWO long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)

TWO receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square

FOUR cloth diapers, flat fold preferred

ONE jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap

TWO pairs of socks

ONE hand towel, dark color recommended

TWO or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars

TWO diaper pins or large safety pins

HOW TO PACK YOUR KITS OF CARE

A MESSAGE FROM FAITH SIMONIEG

Associate to the Bishop for Stewardship, Generosity,
and Ministerial Transition



The Most Important Command (The Message)

³⁴⁻³⁶ *When the Pharisees heard how he had bested the Sadducees, they gathered their forces for an assault. One of their religion scholars spoke for them, posing a question they hoped would show him up: "Teacher, which command in God's Law is the most important?"*
³⁷⁻⁴⁰ *Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.' This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' These two commands are pegs; everything in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them." Matthew 22*

In the text above, a scholar of the law dared to test Jesus; asking him what he thinks is the greatest commandment of all. Jesus gave him a clear answer. The greatest command among many things that man could do is to love. To love God with one's heart, soul, and mind and to love one's neighbor are the greatest commandments of all. These two are inseparable. One cannot say "I love God" but hate his/ her neighbor or have nothing to do with his/ her neighbor. Because God is love and that is why we can love.

I admit, it was hard to love my neighbor because their dog was barking at 2:30 a.m. this morning. Last week, it was hard to love my neighbor because they were taking too long to in the aisle at Walmart and I was in a hurry to finish my shopping.

How can I live out this commandment I hear in the book of Matthew?

In worship, we say over and over that we are the Body of Christ. We hear it at the communion rail, and we read it in 1 Corinthians 12 where Paul emphasizes the unity of the Church: *"we are made up of many parts, but we are one body. The many parts of the body are different from each other, and all are necessary. There should be no division. And if one part of the body suffers, every part suffers with it."*

Paul continues writing that spiritual gifts, especially love, are designed to bring glory to God. It is our highest calling – to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We are called into mission as the Church, as the Body of Christ, to continue the work that Jesus did.

One way to love is to serve. To lovingly show kindness to strangers, especially those who are in need. Practicing loving on our neighbor takes effort, discipline, and intentionality. Imagine how you might do this and begin with prayer.

The 2021 Synod Assembly theme: "Love God, Love Neighbor" came from Matthew 22. I encourage you to view video of the engaging Bible Studies led by Pastor Pauline Crowder, Pastor Sylvia Bull, and Pastor Joe Natwick by following this link: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/8514460>

Please reach out to me by phone at 701-226-5865 or via email at faith@wndsynod.org. God called me to serve on the synod staff as a resource on stewardship, so I would love to talk with you!

Peace be with you,
Faith Simonieg,
Associate to the Bishop for Stewardship, Generosity and Ministerial

Love YOUR
neighbor
as yourself.
MATTHEW 22:39

Summer Picnics and Outdoor Worship

One Wednesday each month this summer, we will gather for a picnic and brief outdoor worship. ****Note: these will NOT be potlucks.**** We will grill hamburgers, hotdogs, and chicken breasts, and provide chips, drinks and fixings. You just come and enjoy! Bring your favorite chair if you like. The next summer Wednesday service will be on July 14th, with food ready at 5:30 and worship at 6 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Travel with LCC to Israel!

Wouldn't you love to see the Holy Land? All those places you've heard named but can't yet picture in your head: Bethlehem, Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Jordan River, Jericho, Jerusalem, Bethany, Mt. of Olives, Bethany... you will never hear the Scriptures the same way again. Pastor Lisa will lead our group Jan 31-Feb 8, 2022. Info in the narthex, or call her. ****The trip is fully refundable if you should change your mind.**** Join us! Friends, neighbors, family welcome. Group members can depart from other places, as well.

Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!!

We appreciate your flexibility as the parking lot was tarred, sealed and striped, AND all your help moving chairs and tables from the fellowship hall and items from the narthex so that the carpet could be cleaned, and then helping put them back! It looks wonderful! The old saying is true, "many hands make light work."

More Opportunities to Help This Summer

There are now clipboards with the summer Sunday dates listed for you to sign up to bring treats and serve coffee (always fun to do with a friend or as a family), and to run the dishwasher. We all enjoy the fellowship after worship so much. If a date works for you, sign up! With a variety of people joining in, the work doesn't fall on the same few all the time – and it's fun! (PS the dishwasher is easy, and a quick training by one of our many experts will have you delighting in your new skill in no time!) Look for the clipboards on the table with the coffeepots on it.

Did You Know...

That because of health care privacy laws we cannot know if you or your loved one is hospitalized unless you tells us. Please do help us know if someone needs or would appreciate pastoral care. Thank you!

The Sunday bulletin and the Order of Worship bulletin is on the website as well as the publishing of the Church Council minutes and the CrossWord newsletter.

Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

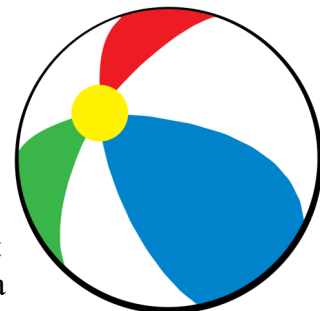
July 2021



Summer Youth Group and Family activities!

Who is excited for summer? I am. Join Janie on the dates below for some summer fun!

July 11th: Family fun day at the bowling alley. Join Janie at Midway Lanes for pizza, bowling and arcade games from 6-8pm. Families of all ages are welcome to come and bring a friend!



July 14th: Family Fun Day at Raging Rivers—(youth 5th grade and under need to be accompanied by an adult or guardian) meet Janie from 12pm–5pm at Raging rivers for an afternoon of fun in the sun! We have the Porch Party Area reserved from 12-4pm. The Porch Party area is on the south east side of the kid pool area.

July 14th: For people of all ages we will have an outdoor movie night following worship. The movie will start between 7:30 and 8pm. We will watch the Disney Pixar Movie *Soul* If it rains or there is inclement weather we will watch the movie inside.



July 21st: Junior and Senior High Youth Group from 7pm –9:30pm. We will meet at the Grand Movie Theatre and see the Movie *Cruella*. Janie will buy your movie ticket, but please bring money for snacks. Please note that movies can change and we might have to pick a different movie other than *Cruella*.

July 25th: Church of the Cross takes on Camp of the Cross. Join Janie at Camp of the Cross for a summer Sunday Worship. Worship starts at 10am. Church of the Cross is sponsoring the lunch after worship this day. We will meet in the parking lot of Church of the Cross at 8am to car pool to camp. Please sign up in the Narthex if you would like to car pool to camp. There will still be normal worship at LCC at 10am.

July 28th: Ice-Cream Sundae Social and Lawn Games! LCC Youth and families (preschool to senior high) are you looking for something to do on a random Wednesday night? Plan to join us on the church lawn, July 28th between 6:30-8:00 p.m. for an ICE-CREAM SUNDAE SOCIAL and lawn games. Corn hole, balloon volleyball, and badminton challenges will be set up, but you can also bring your favorite game. Feel free to invite a friend.



August 11th: For people of all ages we will have an outdoor movie night following worship Watch the July and August newsletter for what movie we will be watching.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 2021				1 8p AA Mtg.	2 Wired Word 1:30pm	3
4 10:00 Worship Service 4th of July God Bless America	5 Office is closed	6 Staff Meeting 10am	7	8 8pm AA Mtg.	9 Wired Word 1:30 pm	10
11 10:00 Worship Service Family Fun Day @ Midway Lanes 6—8 pm Pizza Bowl- ing, Arcade	12 Needlework Group 9:30am	13 Staff Meeting 10am	14 Book Club 1:30pm "The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek" Raging Rivers noon + 5:30 Picnic . 6:00 Worship Church Council plus	15 8pm AA Mtg.	16 Wired Word 1:30 pm	17
18 10:00 Worship Service	19 Needlework Group 9:30am	20 Staff Meeting 10am	21 9:00am MM Bible Study Movie @ Grand theater Jr. & SR Hi	22 8pm AA Mtg.	23 Wired Word 1:30 pm	24
25 10:00 Worship Service@ COC and here.	26 Needlework Group 9:30am Knitting for Oth- ers 1pm	27 Staff Meeting 10am	28 Ice Cream Social 6:30—8pm	29 8pm AA Mtg.	30 Wired Word 1:30 pm	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 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”