



The CrossWord

June 2021



From Pastor Lisa ... a word for summer

Look how the wild flowers grow! They don't work hard to make their clothes, but I tell you that Solomon with all his wealth wasn't as well clothed as one of these. Luke 12:27 CEV

There is a moment in time that I love more than most. It is that moment when all the flowering crabapple trees burst into blossom and stun me with wonder. (Alas, this glorious moment is usually followed by a day full of huge wind that takes them all away!)

The crabapple blossoms usher in the next moment of delight: Lilacs. White, pale or darker lavender – makes no difference to me. I can smell their scent just thinking about them.

What is it that you love about God's good creation? Summer is a time for reflection, enjoyment, and gratitude. As we get older, we learn that sometimes, those moments never come again. And, that no matter how fleeting life's joys can be, God is with us no matter what comes.

May joy and gratitude be our companions this summer. This is the day the Lord has made – let us rejoice and be glad in it!

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8 NRSV



Angels Among Us

Joel and Jan Gilbertson are our angels this month! They have been key leaders in and providers of the music that energizes and makes worship wonderful at LCC - for as long as many of us can remember. Their keyboard styles complement one another's so seamlessly and effortlessly that you would think all they do is practice! (Actually that is mostly natural talent shining through. J) Jan and Joel moved to Bismarck in the 70s, and immediately felt right at home at LCC, as Joel's parents – his dad Roy was then the Western North Dakota District President (now called the Synod Bishop) were already members here. While their children, David and then Lisa, were little, Joel would watch them while Jan accompanied the choir on the piano and played duets with Carol Kolodejchuk on the organ. Pretty soon he joined the crew, too. These two talented artists helped develop the contemporary service that still brings joy and people to worship. Joel wrote several of the songs we use in worship, including two benedictions, the sung Lord's Prayer, the lovely *Each Day*, and *Remember, Rejoice and Renew* – written for LCC's 50th anniversary. He has collaborated on and produced CD's, performed on TV and even at the White House. Jan has accompanied school choirs for years and also played for many years for Sleepy Hollow Summer Theater productions. They faithfully recorded music from their basement studio all through the pandemic. Jan and Joel gladly share their gifts with us and with the wider community, and we are grateful. After 40+ years, the Gilbertsons have decided to "officially" retire from the church musician rotation. Be sure to give these angels an "air high five" or whatever you each are comfortable with to let them know how much we appreciate them!

Altar Focus – Heart River Lutheran/Bridges of Hope

You are invited to bring baby items all summer as we will put together baby kits in September. Yay for rummage sale season! Lists available in the narthex.

We recently received this letter and decided to make this our June altar focus:

Dear partners in mission,

Greetings from Heart River Lutheran Church and Bridges of Hope! First and foremost, we want to say "thank you" for your continued prayers and support throughout the past year. The pandemic presented many challenges to our work and ministry, but with your support we have been able to continue accompanying and sharing Christ's love with young people in the juvenile justice system. Thank you!

Second, we wanted to inform you of upcoming changes within our ministry. Starting this summer, YCC will begin housing 16-32 minimum security adult women, in addition to the youth currently living on campus. This provides us with an opportunity to expand our mission! We hope to begin providing worship opportunities, fresh start kits, quilts, reentry support, and safe and positive relationships to the women who are housed at this facility. We will continue to provide these services to youth as well. We trust in the Spirit's guidance as we step into a new chapter in our life and ministry together.

See list of items needed on page 4.

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP CRAIG June's Gospel Seeds This Month's Author:

Deacon Beth Anderson, Associate for Leadership & Formation

Matthew 22:36-39 (NRSV)

36 "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" 37 He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

As I write this article, we are just a few weeks away from the 2021 Synod Assembly, but as you read this, the Assembly may be over. During this day, in worship, in conversation, in the work we do together, we will have focused on the passage above and its seemingly simple ethic: Love God. Love People.

Hopefully, you have been inspired by stories about how God is getting this world loved through the words and actions of individuals, congregations, the Western North Dakota Synod, and the wider ELCA. You are a part of this amazing Love, because you are part of each of these expressions actively sharing God's love in the world.

As we move out of Synod Assembly, I invite you to a simple practice to carry the spirit of the assembly into your summer.

Find a place to sit quietly, maybe a favorite chair or a cozy bench in your backyard. Breathe deeply. Listen to the world around you and center your mind on the passage above. Read it a couple of times and let your mind wonder with God about what this passage is saying to you.

Now, fold a sheet of paper lengthwise. On one half, make a list of people in your community. Consider especially: People who have had a difficult year. People you don't know well. People you avoid or choose not to engage. People you know who might be lonely or hurting.

Turn your paper over and on the other half count your blessings - list the talents, skills and positive characteristics that you possess, the relationships you have, the resources at your disposal. What do those closest to you appreciate most about you?

Now open your page and consider these two columns together. How might Love be made tangible in the lives of those listed through actions that grow out of the blessings in your life? Draw lines connecting your gifts with people who might need them. Jot down ideas for actions you could take using gifts you've been given to remind someone in your community that they are loved - by God and by you.

In his book *Martin Luther and the Called Life*, Dr. Mark Tranvik writes,

If we live faithfully within our callings, we find many occasions where love is needed. After all, Christ was one who crossed boundaries. Cultural and religious taboos were often broken as he reached out to the sick, the whores, and the tax collectors. As those whose identity is yoked with Christ, we also go to the "hard"

June's Gospel Seeds continued....

places . And here we meet the very face of Christ as promised in Matthew 25:31-46. We do not bring Christ to the world so much as we meet Christ in the world.

In many ways, the past 12-18 months have isolated us from one another. Quarantine, physical distancing, social media algorithms, differences of opinion, and the ability to choose like-minded conversation partners are just a few things that have allowed us to build caves of comfort where our own ideas, opinions, and fears are confirmed. And while these caves might feel safe and secure at first, they are really illusions that keep us from experiencing the fullness of the neighborhood in which Christ calls us to love and be loved.

So, consider your list, choose one action and go love somebody. May this summer be a time when we once again step outside and experience the Love of Christ made known in neighbor.

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 fixins. You just come and enjoy! Bring your favorite chair if you like. The first summer Wednesday service will be on June 16th, 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.

HEART RIVER BRIDGES OF HOPE

RE-ENTRY NEEDS LIST

Women's Shampoo & Conditioner, Women's Body Wash, Chapstick, Hairbrushes

Toothbrushes (individually packaged preferred)

Toothbrush Travel Cases, Face Wash, Fingernail Clippers

Water Bottles, Women's Socks, Nail Polish

Mini First Aid Kits, Feminine Hygiene Products, backpacks—black or grey

Target/WalMart Gift Cards (\$20 increments preferred)

Check out our Target registry to easily order online!

Items will automatically be shipped to us.

tgt.gifts/bridgesofhopefreshstart

Questions?

Contact Deacon Alex Benson deacon.alexandra@heartriverlutheran.org

Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

June 2021

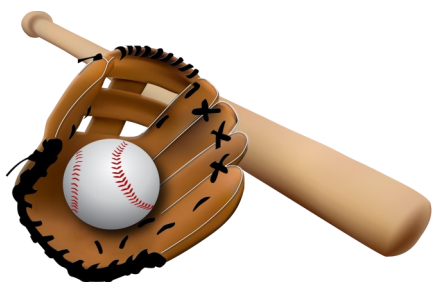


Vacation Bible School!

VBS will be held June 6-9th at LCC, from 6-7pm. Our theme is “Who is my neighbor.” Participants will learn about God’s creation and our neighbors from all over the world. You can register online at: <https://form.jotform.com/lccdod/2021vbsregistration>. If you have any questions please contact Janie.

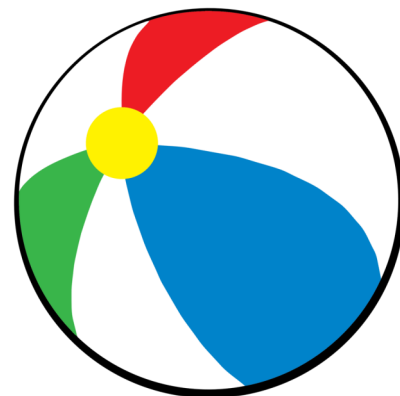
Summer Youth Group and Family activities!

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



June 10th: People of all ages are welcome to a Larks game to benefit CCM—information can be found on the next page in the newsletter

July 14th: Day at Raging Rivers—Junior and Senior high youth meet Janie at 11am–5pm at Raging Rivers for an afternoon of fun in the sun!



July 14th: For people of all ages we will have an outdoor movie night following worship. Watch the July newsletter for what movie will be watching.



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.

CAMP OF THE CROSS

Night With The Larks



VS. LA CROSSE LOGGERS

PROMO CODE: **COTC**

GATES OPEN 5:35 PM

Purchase Online

LARKSTICKETS.COM

FIRST PITCH 6:35 PM

THUR. JUNE 10



Join us for a night of incredible fun with the Bismarck Larks!



\$12 Ticket



\$12

\$17 Hat

TICKET OPTION 2



\$12 Ticket



\$17 Hat



\$20

90 min All You Can Eat Food

*Purchase by **May 27***

**TICKETS &
INFORMATION**

AARON GURERRO - 701-595-7523
AARON@LARKSBASEBALL.COM

All sales are final. No exchanges or refunds. All persons 3 years or older require their own ticket. A 25% deposit is required to reserve your tickets and full payment is due one week before your outing.



June 2021		1 Staff Meeting 10am	2	3 8p AA Mtg.	4 Synod Assembly Minot	5 Synod Assembly Minot
6 10:00 Worship Service VBS 6-7pm	7 Needlework Group 9:30am VBS 6-7pm	8 Staff Meeting 10am VBS 6-7pm	9 Book Club 1:30pm "In An Instant" VBS 6-7pm	10 Larks Game Fundraiser for COC 8pm AA Mtg.	11	12
13 10:00 Worship Service	14 Needlework Group 9:30am	15 Staff Meeting 10am	16 5:30 Picnic but not pot- luck. 6:00 Worship Church Council	17 8pm AA Mtg.	18	19
20 10:00 Worship Service	21 Needlework Group 9:30am	22 Staff Meeting 10am	23 9:00am MM Bible Study	24 8pm AA Mtg.	25	26
27 10:00 Worship Service	28 Needlework Group 9:30am Knitting for Others 1pm	29 Staff Meeting 10am	30			

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churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

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”