



# The CrossWord

September 2021

**From Pastor Lisa**

*"Jeder muss sich mal entspannen."*

I was a German major in college. I speak German, although the occasion to do so rarely arises in my normal daily life. So I bought a German-phrase-a-day calendar that sits on my desk at the office. It's a nice refresher and sometimes makes me laugh – and also makes great scratch paper when the day is done.

The other day when I tore off yesterday's page the phrase above greeted me. It means "everyone has to relax once in a while." It made me think about all of you and the many summer plans I've heard about (and seen or read about on Facebook.) We have among us lake folks, sports stars, far-flung travelers, adventurers, those having fun gathering with family or diving into a good book – and many more.

My hope is that you have found a favorite way to relax this summer, as our thoughts and plans turn toward fall. It hardly seems like fall is coming, since as I write we are anticipating yet another 90+ degree day. But it is! For many of us, schedules will change and the hectic, busy days will ramp up.

There is an article in the August issue of Living Lutheran called *The Spiritual Discipline of Rest*. It reminds us that rest and relaxation are not just matters for summer, but enhance our lives and lift up our better selves. The earth itself, with its seasons, teaches us to rest. And a person quoted in the article said that there's something in the fact that we can hear God more easily when we feel that we're at rest.

I'm headed out on vacation, traveling to Europe to see my daughters who live there. Yes, there is some trepidation about travel, but armed with every available precaution, I look forward to hiking and talking and just being with them.

God never takes a vacation. But after all the good work of creating, God rested – modeling and directing us to do the same. So even as life gets busier, create some Sabbath space; some time to rest and refresh. One of my favorite stories we heard as our Old Testament lesson recently is about the prophet Elijah being so spent he asked God to die. Instead an angel came and woke him as he slept, to eat cakes

fresh baked. (Twice, in fact.) The moral of the story: everything is better with a nap and a snack! And we can hear God better, too.

Blessings to you. See you in church, soon!

Pastor Lisa

### **Altar Focus for September: Options for Generosity**

Summer provided us special presentations in worship (summer Wednesdays and one Sunday) that not everyone got to hear. Even those who did will appreciate this extra info for how and what to give:

*Adult and Teen Challenge* is a Christian-based addiction recovery program based in Mandan. Their choir came and led our Wednesday outdoor worship in July. Some members gave moving testimonies of the life-changing and healing power of God's grace. You can sponsor a student for \$35/month, or donate any amount you like. There are wooden crosses in the narthex available with names of students who were here. Feel free to take one and pray for those people. You can learn more at [www.tc4hope.org](http://www.tc4hope.org), or call 701-667-2131. Adult and Teen Challenge's address is 1406 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NW, Mandan, ND 58554.

*Camp of the Cross Ministries* is a favorite here at LCC. Their staff was scheduled to lead our Wednesday summer worship in August, and we looked forward to having about 20 staff members with us! Unfortunately, COVID struck and camp had to close early. This meant a financial hit to CCM, as campers who would've come the last week had to be reimbursed, and staff who were expecting to be, needed to be paid as well. Our very own Marin Traynor, a summer staff member and guitarist extraordinaire, WAS able to lead our worship, with the help of her talented sister Keelin. If you aren't familiar with Camp of the Cross Ministries, you can learn more and donate at their website: [www.campofthecross.com](http://www.campofthecross.com). We hope you can also visit the beautiful site, with a new fellowship center built greatly with help from LCC folks. The address is: 1228A 47<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Garrison, ND 58540.

### *Heart River Lutheran/Bridges of Hope*

Pastor Gail Hagerty of Heart River Lutheran, which meets on the campus of the Youth Correctional Center in Mandan, preached for us on Aug. 15 and told us more about their Bridges of Hope ministry with current and former incarcerated youth and now women, some of whom have been moved to the YCC campus from the women's prison at New England, ND. You can watch the archived service from our website and hear more about it. As the women are released, sometimes without even the underthings, clothing and shoes they need, Bridges of Hope is seeking to help. You are invited to help by ordering shoes from their online registry at Target, which will be shipped directly to Bridges of Hope: [www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/bohshoedrive2021](http://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/bohshoedrive2021).

## **Altar Focus continued**

The other needs arise from the fact that some of the incarcerated women are pregnant. Pastor Gail asked if we could help with baby quilts. If you can make one or more at home, please do. If you would like to donate soft flannel or similar material, our quilters will go to work. Since we are already putting together baby care kits for Lutheran World Relief, we will package up some special ones to go along with the quilts for these babies. Bring all baby donations here to LCC. You can learn more about Heart River Lutheran and Bridges of Hope at [www.heartriverhope.org](http://www.heartriverhope.org).

Hopefully these are enough specifics to be helpful! If one or more of these needs speaks to you and you still have questions, please call the church for more information. And THANK YOU for all your generosity!

## **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.

## **Volunteer Opportunity: Sunday Church Opener**

For many years, faithful volunteers have opened the church on Sunday mornings. While this task takes about 20 minutes, it is important to the function of the church and Sunday services, and it needs to be done each week. LCC's long-time Sunday Church Openers are ready to pass this task on to a new volunteer or volunteers, and we need your help to fill this position as soon as possible. This position could be held by a number of volunteers, so one individual doesn't have to commit to every Sunday.

The Sunday Church Opener unlocks the west/east entry doors by 8:15 a.m. each Sunday. Depending on the season, this may also require some light leaf or snow removal right at the entry doors when unlocking. The inside opening duties include turning on the sanctuary lights, the master power switch for the sound booth, and the air conditioners (summertime), as well as starting the water pump for the baptism fountain. The last task (which may be argued as one of the most important) is to make coffee and get the urns to the serving table and plugged in, so they are ready for fellowship time following the service.

Volunteers will be trained in the Sunday church opening duties prior to taking on this important task. Please call the church office at 223-1001 or let Pastor Lisa or Art Wheeler know if you are interested in this volunteer opportunity.

## A Message from Bishop Craig

September 2021

Brothers and sisters in Christ of the Western North Dakota Synod, grace, and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen.



It seems like several lifetimes ago since we gathered together at the beginning of summer in Minot, North Dakota or online thru Zoom for this year's Synod Assembly. We gathered around this text from the Gospel of St. Matthew in the 22nd chapter where we hear, "When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had been silenced by the Sadducees, they gathered together and one of them, a lawyer, asked Jesus a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to them, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all of your soul and with all of your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:37-39)

In Minot, at the Synod Assembly, that text was the centering text for our time together as we conducted the business of our Synod, as we gathered together in Bible study, as we joined in worship and prayer. Matthew's teaching to us and Jesus' words to us to, "love your neighbor as yourself" reflected across the entire scope of our time together.

My guess is that you've gathered in other ways over these summer months; family reunions, school reunions, class reunions, gathering together with friends in ways that you weren't able to do last summer because of the pandemic. Other ways that we've gathered with one another in the past have yet to return. We long for those things to return, to be like they used to be.

Several lay leaders in the church and a couple of our Rostered Ministers have recently said to me, "You know what, I'm tired of taking care of my neighbor; when is someone going to take care of me?" To which I've often responded, "Aren't you grateful that you have a neighbor who has paid attention and is taking care of you in and through this time?"

As we continue to travel through this time that is unlike any other in human history, some of us believe that coronavirus and the pandemic are already in the rear-view mirror. For others the pandemic is still very present and real.

May Jesus' teaching guide us as we enter into fall; as we come back together for events like Rally Sunday and God's Work Our Hands Sunday; as church school and confirmation ministries happen; as worship returns to some reflection of what it was before; and even in those times when nothing really returns to what it was before, continue to be kind to one another, to serve alongside one another, to take care of each other.

As fall programming begins and fall activities take place, know that you are held in prayer, that your synod staff is available to walk with you in whatever way we can be supportive and helpful, and that, together as church, as church made up of the Western North Dakota Synod, 160 or so congregations, part of this crazy little church called the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we do this together. We love the Lord our God with all of our heart, with all of our soul, with all of our mind and we love our neighbor as ourselves.

God bless you and may God's grace and peace be with you always.

Bishop Craig

## **New Member Class**

Interested in joining Lutheran Church of the Cross, or know someone who might be? We will meet after worship (so, 11 a.m.) on September 19 and 26. New members will be welcomed in worship October 10! Stop and get your coffee and treats after worship, and join us for conversation in the conference room, between the sanctuary and church offices. If you have questions or would like to know more about it, please call Pr. Lisa!

## **Wednesday Meals Return! Sign up to host and clean up!**

Before the pandemic, we were taking turns signing up to make or bring a simple meal before Wednesday evening worship, for 25 people or so. (think soup, stroganoff, hotdish, tacos in a bag, and the like) This was a big boon to the folks and families hurrying to make it from school and work to worship on time, with church school and confirmation to follow. It's hard to fit even a drive through fast food trip in on days like that! We welcome all you cooks and hosts to consider signing up so we can once again make food available to our busy Wednesday nighters. September 15, Rally Wednesday, will be a potluck. The clipboard to sign up for the weeks to follow will be on the coffee-serving table (alongside the ones for Sunday coffee hosts and dishwashers). Church starts at 6:15 so supper can begin at 5:15. You will definitely feel the love for this ministry!

## **Bible Studies**

We currently have three Bible/book studies, and you are welcome to join in!

*The Wired Word study* is a weekly conversation that combines Bible study with current events. Each Thursday, a study about something in the news, with questions and suggested Bible passages to contemplate, comes to us online. We meet Fridays at 1:30 pm in the library (or elsewhere if the group is larger) for conversation. Call the office to be added to the list to receive the study anytime, and feel free to come Fridays even if you haven't read it – we will have copies, and the conversation is always interesting!

*The Gather Women's Bible Study* meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:15pm in the multipurpose room. We look together at the Bible Study in the monthly Lutheran women's magazine, *Gather*. You are welcome to join us! We will meet next on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:15!

*The Early Morning (also known the Mary Magdalene, because she got up early) Bible Study* has reformed its ways and now meets at the more civilized hour of 9 am on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. Technically a book study, we will begin reading together the book "A Praying Life" by Paul E Miller at our September 22 gathering. Books are available in Pr. Lisa's office. All are welcome!

# Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

September 2021



**September 8th:** Confirmation Mentor Meeting at 6pm—9th grade students and their parents who will be confirmed this fall will meet at the church to go over the mentor program and being confirmed.

**September 8th:** Confirmation orientation at 7pm—students and parents will meet their small group leaders and learn about confirmation. Parents and students are asked to attend.

**September 12th and 15th:** Come to the church at 9 am on the 12th and 7pm on the 15th to meet your teachers and games! There will also be a potluck on September 12th following worship and a potluck on September 15th before worship.

**Volunteer opportunities:** We are still in need of church school teachers and one confirmation small group leader for this year. If you are interested in helping in either of these roles please let Janie know.

**September 26th:** Youth group for grades 9-12 from 5-7pm. Meet at LCC for dinner, games, and bible study!

## Confirmation Schedule:

**September 8:** 6pm: Orientation (Grades 6, 7, 8,) 7pm: 9th Grade Five Promises Mentor Mentee Meeting

**September 15:** Small Group Night

**September 22:** Large Group Night Theme: Creation. Please read: Genesis 1 and 2

**September 29:** Service Project Night – All grades meet at LCC

**October 6:** Large Group Night Theme: Human Condition. Please read: Genesis 3 and 4

## Church School Schedule:

**September 12** Rally Day

**September 19** In the beginning

**September 26** No Church School

**October 3** Service Projects

**September 15** Rally Day

**September 22** In the Beginning

**September 29** Service Project Night

**October 6** Abraham and Sarah

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>September 2021</b>						
<b>5</b> 10:00 Worship Service Coffee	<b>6</b> Needlework Group 9:30am	<b>7</b> Staff Meeting 10am	<b>8</b> Book Club 1:30 <b>Confirmation Orientation 6 &amp; 7 pm</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Church Council 6:30pm</b>  8pm AA Mtg.	<b>10</b> Wired Word 1:30 pm	<b>11</b>
<b>12 Rally Day</b> 9:00 Meet the teachers 10:00 Worship Service Potluck	<b>13</b> Needlework Group 9:30am	<b>14</b> Staff Meeting 10am	<b>15</b> <b>Rally Wednesday</b> <b>Potluck 5:15pm</b> <b>Church Service 6:15</b> <b>Meet the teachers 7pm</b> <b>Confirmation 7pm</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Sewing Day/Baby</b> <b>Care Kits 1pm</b>  8pm AA Mtg.	<b>17</b> Wired Word 1:30 pm	<b>18</b>
<b>19 9:00 Church School</b> 10:00 Worship Service Coffee	<b>20</b> Needlework Group 9:30am Knitting for Others 1pm	<b>21</b> Staff Meeting 10am	<b>22</b> 9:00am MM Bible Study Supper 5:15pm Church Service 6:15pm Church School 7pm Confirmation 7pm	<b>23</b>  8pm AA Mtg.	<b>24</b> Wired Word 1:30 pm	<b>25</b>
<b>26 9:00 Church School</b> 10:00 Worship Service Coffee Youth Group GR.9—12 Dinner & Games	<b>27</b> Needlework Group 9:30am	<b>28</b> Staff Meeting 10am	<b>22</b> Supper 5:15pm Church Service 6:15 pm Church School 7pm Confirmation 7pm	<b>30</b> 8pm AA Mtg.		



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churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

# E-News

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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

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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”**