



# The CrossWord

October 2021

**From Pastor Lisa**

***So we are ambassadors for Christ... 2 Corinthians 5:20***

I recently read a pastoral letter from Bishop Regina Hassanally to her synod, the folks of the Southeastern Synod of MN. She spoke, more eloquently than I could, about the forces we are all facing. So I have changed little of what she said in the letter that follows.

How we understand who we are shapes how we live.

Martin Luther supposedly said, "When you wash your face, remember your baptism." Remembering our baptism is remembering our identity. I'm a child of God. That is who I am. That's who you are.

The apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians that, as God's people, we are "ambassadors of Christ." As the People of God, we are beloved children of God, and we also represent more than just ourselves. Indeed, we represent what it means to be a child of God. We are, as Paul teaches us elsewhere, the body of Christ in the world today.

From Bishop Hassanally: "Dear church, this pandemic has lasted (and seemingly will continue to) longer than any of us ever imagined. I think it is fair at this point to say we are all plumb worn out. We are tired, and we are weary, and we are wondering how much longer we need to continue thinking so much about the health and welfare of others.

To this, I offer a pastoral word: remember who you are. You are the People of God. You are followers of the way and life of Jesus. You are ambassadors of Christ.

The sheer amount of decision making this pandemic requires is exhausting. The toll that takes is wearing on us, and it is showing up all over the place: in conversations about masks and vaccines and personal freedoms, and in areas that seem completely disconnected from the pandemic but are overflows of our weariness nonetheless.

Dear church, even in your profound exhaustion, remember who you are and live and act from that place.

First, stop and remember who you are. Meditate on it. Remember your baptism: the promises you received and the promises made. Remember what it means to be a follower of Jesus: someone who loves God and loves neighbor.

## **Pastor Lisa's letter continued**

Everything in our Christian life hangs on these two teachings. Our identity comes not from the animosity and anxiety that so freely swirl around us but from Jesus Christ.

So, having been re-rooted in your true identity, allow it to shape the way you live. Remember, you are ambassadors of Christ. Allow that understanding to inform how you interact and dialogue with others, how you receive decisions made by leaders, how you continue to live in community.

It has been a long pandemic road; the stress and anxiety around us only seem to increase. But those outside forces are not what shape how we live because they do not change who we are."

These restrictions will be lifted, hopefully soon. As my grandmother would say, "this too shall pass." It will have changed many things, but it hasn't changed us. Beloved family of LCC, we are the People of God, followers of Jesus, ambassadors of Christ. Let's remember who we are, every chance we get.

See you in church!     Pastor Lisa

## **Altar Focus for October**

Let's have some fun with this month's altar focus, which is "Pillow Fight!"

Technically, this focus will run right up until our Thanksgiving Eve service, which is currently being planned, with a look at homelessness in our area. One of the items that is constantly in short supply for our homeless/transient population is pillows. So we are inviting you to bring new pillows for our altar offering this month and until Thanksgiving Eve. You may also bring pillowcases and other bedding, which don't have to be new, but in good shape and clean. Please mark with size.

So, where does the "pillow fight" come in? We are challenging our ecumenical partner churches to join us in this campaign, and see which can bring in the most. The items will be spread out among the various agencies working with the homeless, including the homeless shelter, Ministry on the Margins, and others. Thanks for your generosity and help!

## **Angels Among Us**

Normally, this paragraph would contain the names of a person, or couple, or family, and in the wider sense of family - our LCC family - that is still true. But this month we'd like to lift up a few people who make things run smoothly on Sunday mornings: our "church openers." These are the folks who open the doors, turn on the lights, check the heat/air conditioning settings, make the coffee, and just generally make things ready to welcome you all in. For years, Jeff Thomas has done this faithfully. Art Wheeler has been Jeff's trustworthy backup, and when he was coming to do projection, has offered to just do the opening as well. We are grateful to you both for the warm welcome we've enjoyed, thanks to you!

## Israel Trip

As you may have heard, Pastor Lisa is leading a trip to Israel January 31- February 8, 2022, with an optional extension to Jordan for three extra days. Some questions have been popping up: **is the trip still going?** The answer is, as of this point, yes. The final call will be made in November, if there should be any situation that makes it unsafe to go. If that happens, your deposit can go to a later trip or be refunded. We are working (through Judy's Leisure Tours, a travel agency in Fargo) directly with people on the ground in Israel, including (according to Mavis Pommerer, a longtime leader of international travel groups) one of the best guides she's ever experienced. The second question we are hearing is: **can I still go if I haven't yet registered?** The answer to that one is also yes, with the caveat that you should register as soon as possible, as getting seats on the airplanes will get tougher and more expensive. Registration forms and information are available on tables in the narthex or from Pastor Lisa. The third question is **what if I need to fly from somewhere other than Bismarck?** This is certainly possible. We already have group members (mostly LCC members and their friends/family, with a few extra from Fargo, but you may invite others to join us!) flying from Fargo, Arizona and the East Coast. Please speak to Pastor Lisa if you have questions. We would love to have you join us on this trip of a lifetime. You will be amazed at how the Scriptures read in worship come alive.

## 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 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 and continue on each month. All are welcome!



## A Message from Bishop Craig

October 2021 from Sherie Heinle and Rev. Lisa Lewton

# Gospel Seeds



**“Anything can happen.” (Mark 9:23b)** It’s certainly been a long few months of anything and seemingly everything happening! We’ve all lived it and continue to live it!

Let’s be honest.... These past months have been a mix feelings and a mess of emotions. As we gathered with the Rostered Ministers of our Synod for retreat and learning in Medora a few weeks ago, our time of rest and renewal was centered on a guiding Scripture from Mark 9:14-29 (Message). This gathering – the people and the focus – was exactly what I needed. What many in attendance needed. Perhaps what many of you may need?

Rev. Lisa Lewton (St. John, Dickinson) captured our time and the message in a recent eloquent blog entitled, “When One Feeling Isn’t Enough”. She consented to sharing it with you. Thank you, Pastor.

Last week, I spent a few days with my colleagues in Western North Dakota at an annual theological retreat. We both retreated by resting and catching up, and engaged in theological learning and discussion. It's no secret that Western North Dakota is not the most desirable location in the country to do ministry! Lutherans leaders often prefer to land in a metro area, and so what leaders in other areas might miss is a tight-knit collegial community. It is tight-knit because we know we need each other to survive! There is no sense of competition among churches, but instead a culture of support.

And so when the conversation at our retreat centered around processing the past year and looking ahead at the work yet to do, there was a flood of feelings. There was grief and hope, disappointment and gratitude, mercy and frustration, all at once.

Did you know you can feel at least two feelings at once? You do it all the time. You feel love for your spouse and also utter shock that the two of you are still married. You feel gratitude for your child and ongoing irritation that said child continues to leave a trail of messiness throughout the house. You feel content in your life at the same time you feel curious that there might be something more.

There are so many feelings in the world right now! It might be helpful to remember your neighbor may be as confused about her feelings as you are about yours. I live in one of the Covid-sickest parts of the country, so while I'm grateful people have started reconnecting at the church I serve, I feel deep concern for people's health. Should we be gathering? I think, yes. Should we be cautious? Also yes. Is it good for our souls to gather in the same space? Absolutely yes. Even now? I think, yes.

Argh. It's no small task to be human these days, with so many feelings bubbling inside of us. I encourage you today to take note of your feelings. Here is a link with a list of feelings (<https://baynvc.org/list-of-feelings/>) if you need some help. Then, you might ask a friend or people in your family to do the same. My very favorite tool to engage you in conversation around feelings with your own self or with others feelings are GROK cards (<https://groktheworld.com/>).

Article continued on next page.

**Gospel Seed Continued:** There is a lot going on in your life if you start to dig around a bit. As I learned in a room full of pastors, deacons and a flood of feelings, naming the truth of what we are experiencing is an invitation for Christ's healing love.

I pray you find healing in Christ's love.     Sherie

I wanted to share the photo of the plaque presentation from Monday evening. We are so very thankful for your support of Missouri Slope and are really wanting to make a consecrated effort to enhance this relationship. Your board members representing your congregation have been very valuable to this board. We are so appreciative of Paul Gurholt, and Stacy Krumwiede.



**MISSOURI SLOPE**  
TAILORED CARE. INSPIRED LIVING.

Missouri Slope is adding a new and much more efficient care center on North Washington to meet the future needs of our community. As a member church of Missouri Slope, we would like to invite you to join us for a tour of our new north campus located at 4916 N Washington on Tuesday, October 19, at 9:00 am. Please contact Cathy Anhalt at 221-9349 to register.

## Family Church

Family church is a worship service geared towards children and their families. Kids usually attend services aimed at youth and adults. We'll be hosting a service this Sunday aimed to help them be the primary recipient of the message. It's also intended to bring families into church school with the kids. Date/times are Oct 10th/9am in the multi-purpose room (replaces church school on this day), Oct 13th/6:15pm (replaces regular service) in the sanctuary.



# Children Youth & Family Ministry



October 2021

**October 3rd:** Youth group grades 6-8 from 12:30pm –2:30pm. Meet at LCC at 12:30 and we will head out to the pumpkin patch for an afternoon of fun.

**October 10th and October 13th:** Whole family Church School. Church school families are invited to attend a kid friendly worship service held in the multi-purpose room.

**October 17th:** Youth group grades 9-12 from 12:30-2:30pm. Meet at LCC at 12:30 for pumpkin carving and an afternoon of fun. Please bring your own pumpkin to carve.

**October 31st:** Join us for Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 31st from 2pm-3pm, for some Halloween fun. We will need volunteers to sign up for trunks, and candy donations. Please sign up on the poster board in the Narthex or talk to Janie



## Confirmation Schedule:

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>October 6</b>  | <b>Large Group Night Theme: Human Condition</b><br><i>Please read: Genesis 3 and 4</i>                                  |
| <b>October 13</b> | <b>Small Group Night – Stewardship fair scavenger hunt-</b><br><b>All students meet in Multi-purpose room.</b>          |
| <b>October 20</b> | <b>NO Large Group—Teachers' Convention</b>  |
| <b>October 27</b> | <b>Large Group Night Theme: Abraham and Sarah</b><br><i>Please read: Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-16; 15:18-20; 17:1-5, 15</i> |
| <b>November 3</b> | <b>Large Group Night Theme: Isaac and Rebekah</b><br><i>Please read: Genesis 22:1-18; 24:10-53, 62-67; 25:1-18</i>      |

## Church School Schedule:

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>October 3</b> Service Projects   | <b>October 6</b> Abraham and Sarah  |
| <b>October 10</b> Whole Family      | <b>October 13</b> Whole Family      |
| <b>October 17</b> Abraham and Sarah | <b>October 20</b> No Church School  |
| <b>October 24</b> Rebekah and Isaac | <b>October 27</b> Rebekah and Isaac |
| <b>October 31</b> Jacob             | <b>November 3</b> Jacob             |

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>October 2021</b>						
<b>3</b> 9:00 Church School 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Youth Group Gr. 6-8 Papa's Pumpkin Patch 12:30-2:30pm	<b>4</b> Needlework Group 9:30am	<b>5</b> Staff Meeting 10am Gather Bible Study 1:15pm	<b>6</b> Supper 5:15pm Church Service 6:15pm Church School 7pm Confirmation 7pm	<b>7</b> Quilting 1pm 7:30pm AA Mtg.	<b>8</b> Wired Word 1:30pm	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00 Family Worship in multipurpose room 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee /Stewardship Fair	<b>11</b> Needlework Group 9:30am	<b>12</b> Staff Meeting 10am	<b>13</b> Book Club 1:300 Supper 5:15pm Family Worship 6:15pm Confirmation 7pm Stewardship Fair	<b>14</b> Quilting 1pm <b>Church Council</b> <b>6:30pm</b> 7:30pm AA Mtg.	<b>15</b> Wired Word 1:30pm	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00 Church School 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Youth Gr 9-12 Pumpkin carv- ing 12:30-2:30pm	<b>18</b> Needlework Group 9:30am	<b>19</b> Staff Meeting 10am	<b>20</b> Supper 5:15pm Church Service 6:15pm Church School 7pm <b>NO</b> Confirmation 7pm	<b>21</b> Quilting 1pm 7:30pm AA Mtg.	<b>22</b> Wired Word 1:30pm	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 Church School 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee <b>31</b> <b>Trunk or Treat 2-3pm</b>	<b>25</b> Needlework Group 9:30am Knitting 1pm	<b>26</b> Staff Meeting 10am	<b>27</b> 9:00am MM Bible Study Supper 5:15pm Church Service 6:15pm Church School 7pm Confirmation 7pm	<b>28</b> Quilting 1pm 7:30pm AA Mtg.	<b>29</b> Wired Word 1:30pm	<b>30</b>



1004 E Highland Acres Rd  
Bismarck ND 58501  
Phone: 701.223.1001

[churchsecretary@midconetwork.com](mailto:churchsecretary@midconetwork.com)

## E-News

---

### Worship Times:

Wednesday Worship  
6:15pm (School year)  
Church School 7pm

Sunday Worship  
The River Service  
10:00am  
Church School 9:00 am

Lisa Ahlness, Pastor  
Janie Hague, Deacon

Office Hours:  
M - TH 8-4pm  
Fri. 8-noon School Year

### 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"**