



The Cross Word April 2022

From Pastor Lisa

I've been happy lately thinking about the good things to come and I believe it could be something good has begun. Cat Stevens, "Peace Train"

When I was a senior in college, I was a columnist for the college newspaper. My column was called Lyricisms, because I would riff on (that is, I would wax philosophical or draw some kind of wisdom or point from) a snippet of lyrics from a song, such as the one above, which just floated out of my subconscious. There were many different kinds of songs, expressing a variety of emotions. Somehow, songs can often say things more powerfully than "just words." I loved writing those columns, using songs that spoke deeply to me.

I was remembering this as I looked at the Psalm for this week. The Psalms, of course, ARE songs. And although we mostly just have the words, these words are often made into songs or chanted or sung during worship services. They express a myriad of emotions – quite likely every possible emotion, through the 150 Psalms collected in our Bible.

Have you ever read through the Psalms carefully? Or even let your eyes land on one of them and pay careful attention to it? They go past our eyeballs and ears so quickly in worship that it's easy to lose track quickly even of the ones that strike us to the core.

You've probably heard me say that I have several translations of the Bible, and I often turn from one to another when a section isn't easily understandable or to just hear it in different language. I do this with the Psalms, but maybe my favorite way to read one is using my study Bible, which is full of helpful notes.

No matter what is going on in our lives, there is a Psalm written by someone long ago that expresses something similar: feeling like we're deep down in a pit; wondering how long the agony of suffering will go on; unsure of ourselves and looking for refuge; prayers of praise and worship and wonder and thankfulness for the beauty of creation; for recovery/delivery/restoration after illness or difficulty; asking for God to wreak vengeance on someone and deliver us from evildoers; gratitude and amazement at God's creation of and care for and closeness to us.

Pick a snippet; any snippet. If you'd like suggestions, ask me. When you don't have words for prayer, use these, already here.

As Christ's resurrection celebration approaches, may Hope prevail.
God's Peace be with you. Pastor Lisa



“Making Jesus Known by Sharing Our Gifts”

Greetings, members and friends of Church of the Cross!

Along with the other ELCA churches in the area, we have been challenged to raise funds to help finish and furnish the chapel at the new Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center North Campus.

From its founding in 1962, LCC has been a corporate member of Missouri Slope and has been actively involved in its ministry to the aging residents of our area. Inspired by the opportunity to enhance this ministry, two of our members have pledged a total of \$25,000 that will be used to match the first \$25,000 donated by other members of the congregation. Our goal is to raise at least \$50,000 to help Missouri Slope residents enjoy a beautiful, accessible worship space that enriches their spiritual and faith development.

Lutheran Church of the Cross’s matching gift program begins April 3 and will run through Mothers’ Day, May 8. On April 10, Palm Sunday, we will host a “Palms and Pancakes” pancake and sausage breakfast at LCC from 11 am – 1 pm. There will be other chances to learn more, and to enjoy a tour of the new facility if you haven’t yet seen it.

Our campaign is called LCC’s “Love Your Neighbor” Campaign and is a way for each of us and all of us together to participate in the MSLCC’s capital campaign supporting the new facility. We hope you will consider a contribution - you can pledge the amount over a period of up to five years! Please know that a gift of any size is greatly appreciated.

With these donations, Lutheran Church of the Cross will be recognized at Missouri Slope as a major contributor to the North Campus chapel. Please prayerfully consider the difference your tax-deductible gift can make in the faith life of MSLCC residents.

To give online:

1. Go to: www.missourislope.com/donate
2. Click on the **Donate Now** Button
3. Designation: *Capital Campaign*
4. In “Your information” list your church: **LCC**

With gratitude,

Paul Gurholt & Stacy Krumwiede
LCC representatives on the MSLCC
Board of Directors

Doug Johnson
MSLCC Foundation Board

Yes, I/we wish to support the LCC “Love Your Neighbor” Campaign for MSLCC

Name _____ Address/City/State _____

Donation Amount \$ _____ (in full) **or** \$ _____ (per year) for _____ (# of) years.

Please Select: _____ Check (to MSLCC Foundation) _____ Credit Card Here _____ Online Payment

Type of Card: _____ Name as it appears on card _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ CVC Number: _____

Signature: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Thank you for your generous support!

Please return this to MSLCC Foundation, 4916 N Washington Street, Bismarck, ND 58503



MISSOURI SLOPE
TAILORED CARE. INSPIRED LIVING.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR



Lutheran Church of the Cross members are invited to help finish and furnish the chapel at the new North Washington Campus of **Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center**.

Please give to support the faith of our community's aging residents. The chapel will be a beautiful way for residents and families to enhance their relationship with God and grow their faith. Gifts of any size will make a difference.



The first \$25,000 in gifts from LCC members will be MATCHED dollar-for-dollar by generous donors!



To contribute by Check:

Send your tax-deductible contribution to:

MSLCC Foundation
4916 N Washington Street
Bismarck, ND 58503

*Designate **LCC** in the Memo Line!*

To contribute online:

1. Go to: www.missourislope.com/donate
2. Click on the **Donate Now** Button
3. Designation: *Capital Campaign*
4. In "Your information" list your church: **LCC**

Thank you for your generous support!

Worship back to “normal”!

April 3rd we go back to passing the offering baskets and offering communion elements separately. Children have already been coming up front again for children’s messages. If you’d like to participate in worship, we invite you to serve as an usher, a greeter, a reader, or a communion assistant. Or, come join the production team and learn to run the projection, the livestream or the soundboard. Let the office know of your interest and we will get you plugged in! We are better for your involvement!

Stewardship of Life – Legacy Series Continues

Session #3: 11:15 am April 3. “Why You Need A Will And How To Get One!” If you’re an adult, you’ve probably heard a zillion times that you should have a will, no matter how old you are. Maybe you do, but it hasn’t been updated in many years. Maybe you don’t, and have no idea where to start. And isn’t it expensive? Can one just do it using a form from the internet? We gratefully welcome retired attorney Deb Carpenter as our leader to guide us through the maze of questions.

Session #4: 11:15 am April 24. “Writing Your Own Obituary”

This may seem like a grim idea, but it’s not in the least. Consider it through the lens of a spiritual exercise. Who knows what you think has been important in your life better than you? And, if it were left to your kids or friends to write about your life, would they even be aware of what you think has been important? Come for an intriguing journey with our leaders, Bonnie Staiger and Stacy Staiger Krumwiede. Bonnie is the ND Associate Poet Laureate and Humanities ND Scholar; a prize winning author and published poet with deep connections to LCC. Stacy is her talented daughter who grew up here at LCC and is now raising her own family here as well.



A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

This Month's Writer: Bishop Craig Schweitzer

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Savior Jesus!

I pray that your Lenten journey has been a blessed and holy time. The Lenten season was different for many of us once again this year. War. Division. Hatred. Violence. Anger. It's all just so much. It's all so heavy.

Our Synod Council recently adopted a "why statement" for our work together as synod. Think of this as our new mission or purpose statement. Our why statement emerged after more than 12 months of conversation and prayer around the mission and ministry God is calling our synod into. I believe it also speaks to the truth that we don't do any of this work alone. That's important for us to hear and be reminded of from time to time, because sometimes everything can feel a bit overwhelming.

I invite you to join me in giving God thanks and praise for the prayer-filled, Spirit-led work that has been done by our Synod Council. We continue to seek the Spirit's guidance as we live out this mission and ministry together.

To encourage and equip the ministries of the
Western North Dakota Synod – ELCA,
so that the Good News of Jesus Christ is proclaimed,
and all God's children feel welcomed and included in the ministries to which God calls us.

Over the next several months we will continue to see our Synod's mission and ministry unfolding as we seek to encourage and equip one another in this work. Just a few examples of how this will happen include:

the ongoing monthly Lunch & Learn Zoominars (the second Thursday of the month),

Annual Congregational Roadmap Retreat at Camp of the Cross (April 30th),

strengthening and renewing relationships with the ELCA Foundation, Mission Investment Fund, and Gronlund/Sayther/Brunkow Consultants (GSB) to offer ongoing support for stewardship ministry across congregations and ministries of our synod (check out the introduction from GSB in this month's Gospel Seeds), and,

the 2022 Synod Assembly at the Grand Hotel in Minot (June 3-5) – www.wndsynod.org/synod-assembly.

I look forward to seeing you at one, or all of, these synod events as we together we share in the proclamation of the good news of Jesus across our synod and around the world!

As our Lenten journey comes to an end, may our joyous pronouncements of "He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!" ring out across our synod. And may our work together as synod bear witness to Mary Magdalene's joy after she has witnessed the resurrection firsthand – "I have seen the Lord!"

May it be so.

Women's Retreat April 29—May 1, 2022 Camp of the Cross
Friday 4:00 PM leaving from LCC, returning to LCC Sunday about 1 PM
Cost: \$140

All women (all ages) are welcome to gather for the weekend or Saturday only. April 29 through May 1, 2022 at Lutheran Camp of the Cross, near Garrison, ND.

“Who are we now? - Making sense of change” discussion led by Janie Hague.

The last two years have brought about a lot of loss and change with the pandemic that has impacted everyone. How do we make meaning of our experience and find a way to move forward? This series is designed to process the changes the pandemic has brought to us, and give us tools to find hope and move forward.

For those staying the full weekend: 4 PM on Friday, April 29 - May 1, Sunday back home about 1 PM. Cost: \$140. For two nights in Retreat Center, 2 breakfasts and one dinner at camp. Saturday for the day: April 30 8 AM to 6 PM \$40. Includes breakfast and dinner. We will snack through lunchtime and take a short break to enjoy the setting. For more information contact Sally Grenz: call 701-390- 3049 or Sallygrenz@hotmail.com



Palm Sunday - April 10th, 11 am - 1 pm
Lutheran Church of the Cross
1004 E Highland Acres Road

Palms & Pancakes



Proceeds from this event to be counted as LCC commitment dollars for the “Love Your Neighbor” Campaign to finish and furnish the Chapel at MSLCC.



Altar Focus: Sweet Deal for CAR and Help for Ukraine

It is unusual that we do even one altar focus that is just collecting money and not some kind of item to help others. However, this will just be that unusual month. We continue to invite you to bring back your M&M tubes with your offering for our sister Church in the Central African Republic, and its associated schools, churches, clinic and women's center. In addition, we invite you to respond to the situation in Ukraine and the surrounding countries which are helping. One way is to give through Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) at www.elca.org (or see bulletin inserts on tables in the narthex), or Lutheran World Relief (LWR) at www.lwr.org. This is the organization that all our kits and quilts go to be distributed where needed around the world. Please google either organization for more information. They are highly reputable, related to our Church, and give you the most bang for your buck. And most of all, thank you for your generosity to others in need!

Angels Among Us

This month's angel is one almost all of you will recognize and appreciate. Our worship and music coordinator Robin Johnson has had a tremendous impact on our congregation for the last 9 years. We are so thankful for the ways in which she has served Lutheran Church of the Cross. Robin is a gifted pianist and vocalist, and guides the River worship team. She also stepped in when Tim and Jen Newman moved away to keep the Wednesday worship going, playing keyboard and helping young singers in the Living Water worship team grow and learn. Robin chooses and organizes music for the River singers and rehearses with them; puts together our projection every Sunday; and introduces us to very powerful and moving music. She has a knack for finding the perfect songs to accompany the readings each week. Before Robin was our worship and music leader, she worked on the finance side as our church treasurer. As she changes course and leaves the worship and music coordinator position, we are reminded how blessed we are to have had her share her time and many talents with us. We wish Robin the very best as she now worships from the pew and might enjoy a few Sundays to sleep in! Thank you, Robin!

Recognition for Robin Johnson

And speaking of thanking Robin.....

Her last day as on staff is Sunday, May 1. You are invited to a recognition and farewell (only for her as Worship and Music Coordinator – she is not moving away!) on Sunday, April 24 and Wednesday, April 27 after worship with cake (and possibly moving speeches – who knows?). You are welcome to bring cards that day (or any time before) for Robin. We will also be collecting “memories” for her. You will find, near the front door, blank index cards of various sizes. Please take one or more and write down some memories you have with or of Robin through the years. Then bring the cards back and drop them off at the office (the plastic mailboxes outside our doors is fine). These will be assembled into a “memory album” for Robin to enjoy. The more, the merrier!

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 10, 10 am – followed by pancakes and sausages

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7 pm service with communion – in fellowship hall

Good Friday, April 15, 7 pm Tenebrae Service

Ecumenical Easter Vigil with communion, Saturday, April 16, 7 pm at LCC

*Easter Sunday, April 17, 8 am and 10 am with communion; light breakfast
between services*



HOLY WEEK

Children Youth & Family Ministry

April 2022



Youth Group/Family Fun Activities

April 2nd: 1st Communion class 10am-1pm for students in third grade and their parents.

April 24th: Youth grades 6-12 join Janie at the church for games and food from 4-5pm.

Confirmation Schedule

April 6 Large Group Night Theme: Good Samaritan Please read: Luke 10:25-37

April 13 No Confirmation--Holy Week- attend worship Thursday, Friday and Sunday

April 20 Large Group Night Theme: Parables of Lost and Found. Read: Luke 15

April 27 Large Group Night Theme: Pentecost. Read: Acts 2:9-21; John 14:25-28

May 4 Large Group Night Theme: Saul/Mentor information passed out (8th grade)
Please read: Acts 7:58 – 8:1, 9:1-30

Church School Schedule

Sunday

April 10 Luke's Holy Week

April 17 No Church School

April 24 Thomas Believes

May 1 Many Parts One Body
- Family Worship

Wednesday

April 13 No Church School

April 20 Jesus is Risen

April 27 Thomas Believes

May 4 Many Parts one Body-Family Worship

Jelly Bean Prayer

Church House Collection ©



Red is for the
blood He
gave.



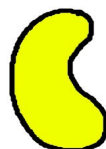
Black is for
the sins we
made.



Green is for
the grass He
made.



White is for
the grace
He gave.



Yellow is for
the sun so
bright.



Purple is
for the hour
of sorrow.



Orange is for
the edge of
night.



Pink is for
our new
tomorrow.

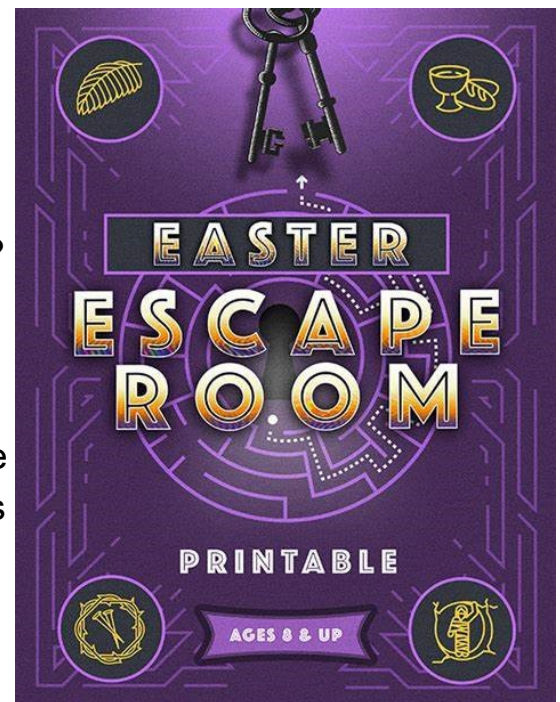


Youth Group/Family Fun Activities



April 3rd: Peep Diorama contest: Do you love peep marshmallows? Then this time is for you! Join Janie at the church to make your very own Peep Diorama. All supplies will be provided. For church school kids meet at the church during your church school time on April 3rd (9am) and 6th (7pm). For grades 6-12 meet at LCC on April 3rd from 5-7pm.

April 9th: Escape Room: Want to go back in time and solve mysteries related to the arrest, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus? This is for anyone who would like to participate. Families, young adults, and youth are all welcome to participate. Join Janie at LCC April 9th from 12-2pm. Pizza will be provided. Please sign up outside of Janie's office if you are interested in participating.



April 10th: Palm Sunday Story Hunt: 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. Meet at Church of the Cross between 12-12:30pm. 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 April 3rd.

April

Calendar 2022

Altar Focus: CAR & Ukrainian Relief

3 9:00 Church School: Peeps 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour/Writing Your Own Will Youth Grp Series Lesson 3 4pm	4 Needlework Group 9:30am	5 Church Council 6:30pm	6 Soup Supper 5:15 Wed. Worship 6:15 Church School/Peeps River Practice 7p Youth Grp Series Lesson 4 8pm	7 Quilting 1pm 7:30 AA Mtg.	8 Wired Word 1:30pm	9 Escape Room 12-2pm
10 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 Church School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Pancake & Sausage Breakfast for MSLCC Noon: Scavenger hunt Youth Grp Series Lesson 4	11 Needlework Group 9:30am	12	13 Book Club 1:30pm NO evening church activities	14 Maundy Thursday Service 7pm 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	15 Office Closed Good Friday Services 7pm	16 Easter Vigil here 7pm
17 EASTER SUNDAY 8::00 Worship Light Breakfast between services 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee	18 Needlework Group 9:30a	19	20 Supper 5-:15 Wed. Worship 6:15p Church school/ Confirmation: 7p River Practice 7p	21 Quilting 1pm 7:30pm AA Mtg.	22 Wired Word 1:30pm	23
24 9:00 Church School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour/ Writing Your Own Obituary Farewell to Robin Grades 6-12 Games/Food	25 Needlework Group 9:30am Knitting for Others 1pm	26	27 9:00am Women's Soup Supper 5:15 Wed. Worship 6:15 Church School/Peeps Farewell to Robin River Practice 7p	28	29 Wired Word 1:30pm Women's Retreat 4:30 Departure for COC	30

1
Wired Word 1:30pm

2
First Communion class 10-1



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Bismarck ND 58501

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churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

E-News

Worship Times:
Wednesday Worship
6:15pm
Sunday Worship
The River Service
10:00am

Lisa Ahlness, Pastor
Janie Hague, Deacon

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

Lutheran Church of the Cross

The Council meetings the second Tuesday of each month (at 6:30pm) 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