



The Cross Word May 2022

From Pastor Lisa

"ecclesia reformata – semper reformanda!"

Actually, I don't know much Latin. The above is a slogan from Martin Luther's day, during the Reformation in the 1500s. It means "church reformed, always reforming."

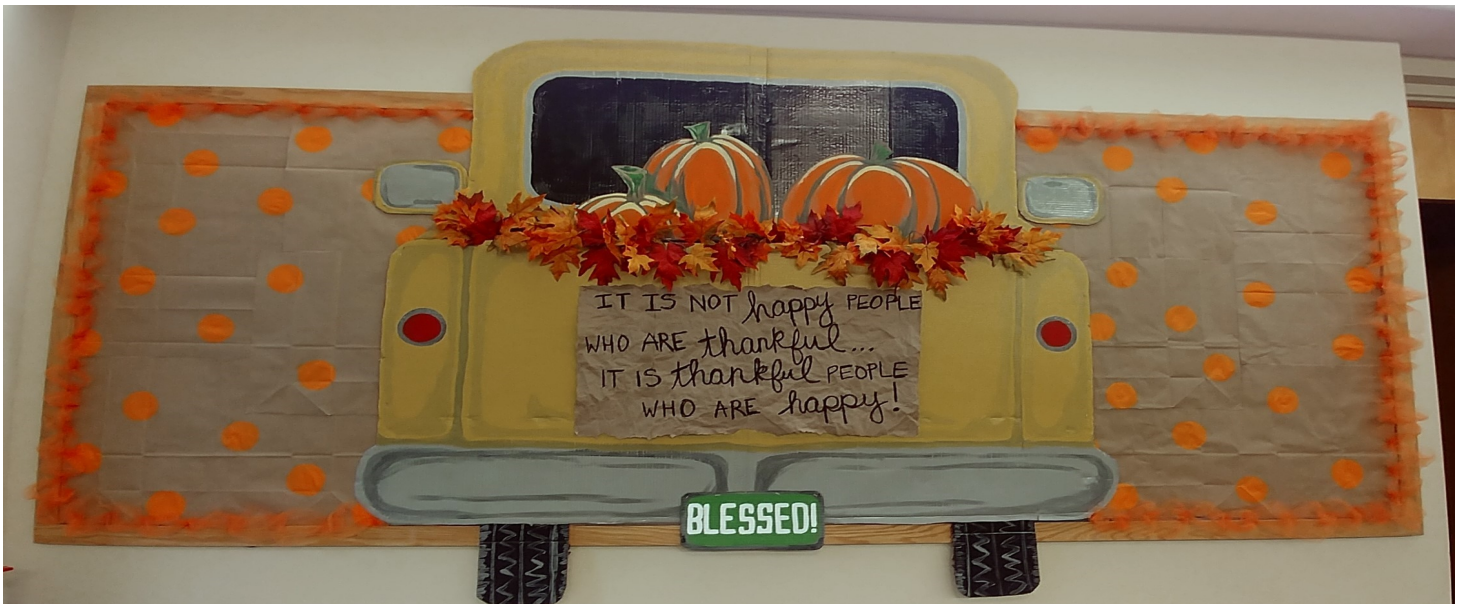
Why in the world was I thinking about this? Well, I went for a walk. It's one of my favorite things to do: to calm down, to get some sunlight and vitamin D, to stir my stumps and get my heart moving, to see some nature and to think. Spring is a great time to walk through the neighborhood, watching the grass greening and buds appearing on trees, cheering on the moisture so the creek and the pond rush and fill again. I'm lucky to live in a good part of Bismarck for this, near several walking paths.

One of them, newly free of snow, wanders up a hill nearby, through enough trees that you feel, for a brief time, that you are in the woods, right here on the prairie. And it comes out right next to the Reformation Forest! This "forest" was a project done cooperatively by several Lutheran churches in town, including LCC, organized by local pastor Nadine Lehr, to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. I thought I would always remember which trees were planted by our LCC "team" – I didn't, but it is great to see them thriving and to remember.

The plaque marking the spot is what reminded me of the saying above. That, and the pandemic times that we have come through. I was thinking back through the last two years, and the many changes we've gone through during that time. As it started in March 2020, and we were close to Easter – it was unimaginable that we would spend the highest celebration of the church year NOT in church! But we did it, and somehow it brought us closer together. Then, months later, we thought surely this will all be over, but it wasn't. And school, and Thanksgiving, and Christmas all were different, too.

We lost friends and family members. People got sick and some have never recovered completely. There was isolation, and anger and frustration and disagreement over best ways to deal with this new tyrant virus in our midst. But there were also phone calls, and letters, and neighbors helping and listening and caring. Now, thankfully, many things have moved toward what we knew as normal before. But we have been changed.

Letter continued on page 2.



Pastor Lisa's letter continued...

And actually, it's always been that way. The world is constantly changing. Luther lived in plague times, too – and many other horrible things have happened through the centuries since then. And yet, God is always at our side. God's word never changes. God is with us, no matter what. And the church continues to change to meet it, to be able to help and serve God's people.

I've been reading in Colossians this week. Paul is exhorting us to give everything to God: to be thankful, to be kind, to be compassionate, to be patient. Those words are helping me this week. That, and the walk, and the time to contemplate. We don't know what's ahead. But there will be more change. And just like the last two years have shown us, we can get through it. And God will be with us.

So as Colossians 3:17 says, *"whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. And be thankful."*

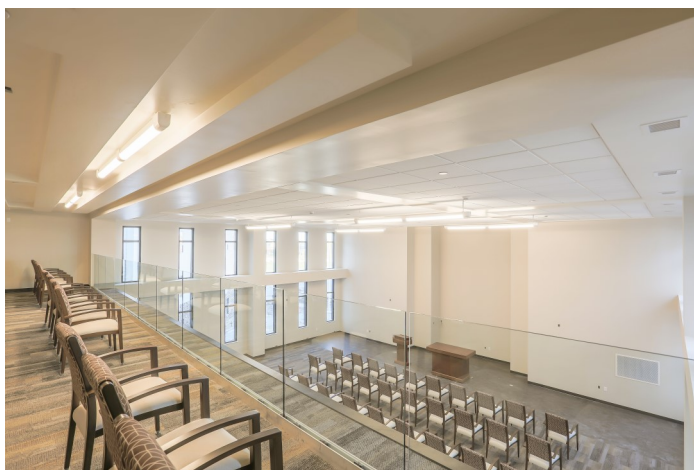
I'm glad to be walking thankfully into the future with you. In Christ, Pastor Lisa





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!



“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

Would You Give A Big Charitable Gift If It Cost You Nothing?

By Rev. Keith Pearson, ELCA Foundation

It's not as odd as it sounds. The biggest charitable gift most people ever make really costs them nothing. Really! You don't have to be rich to make a gift of \$10,000, \$100,000 or even \$1 million. You may be able to make a big gift like this to your church, favorite ministry or charity without spending a penny out of pocket.

How can this be, you ask?

You may not have a spare million just laying around that you don't need. But you probably *do* have a home, vacation property, investment or retirement savings. And yes, you may need those things to sustain you for the rest of your life. No problem. Chances are those things will still have some or even most of their value when you are done with them. Why not make a gift from what's left after you've lived a long and full life?

Gifts made from the remainder of your estate is an easy way to give a large gift without sacrificing anything. Not only that, making estate gifts can be a smart way to avoid taxes, court fees, and costly time settling your estate.

How does it work?

It can be as simple as naming the church or other charity on the deed to your property (known as a "Transfer On Death Deed"), or as beneficiary on your bank account, retirement account, or other assets. You keep it and use it for the rest of your life, and then when you are done with it, it simply transfers to the charity as the new owner.

Do you have a life insurance policy that has outlived its original purpose? You may have taken out a large policy earlier in your life to protect the needs of young children or a surviving spouse. But now that the kids have grown up and the house is paid off maybe those needs are a little less pressing. Maybe you could name your church or other charity as at least one of the beneficiaries on that policy.

What if I want to protect the asset?

You may have considered transferring an asset such as your home into someone else's name to protect it in the event of large, unforeseen expenses such as for healthcare or assisted living. That can be risky and may be subject to certain look-back rules. It may be a better strategy to give the assets away, putting them into a special "life-estate" gift that allows you to continue to use the asset or even draw an income from it for the rest of your life. It can never be taken away from you as long as you live, and the church or charity will likely get a nice big gift when you pass. In addition to that future gift, you may receive an immediate tax deduction the year you make the gift. And, you can most likely do all this without spending a single penny out of pocket.

If you'd like to learn more I'd love to visit with you. We can explore your goals and work out a plan that is best suited to your situation and needs.

Keith Pearson is the ELCA Foundation's Regional Gift Planner in Western Minnesota and North Dakota. His services are available at no charge to congregations interested in building and growing endowments and other planned gifts, and to individuals interested in creating estate plans that will provide legacy gifts to local congregations, other ministries of the ELCA, and to charitable

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

This Month's Writer: Bishop Craig Schweitzer

Jesus: Everyday. Everywhere.

"And remember, I am with you always." Matthew 28:20b Brothers and sisters in Christ,

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

I've lived in North Dakota my entire life. I live 2.4 miles from the home I grew up in on North Fourth Street in Bismarck. Needless to say, I've witnessed and endured many wild weather events on the prairies of our beautiful state. The Holy Week blizzard of 2022 will be forever part of my memory as an historic event. It was a Holy Week journey unlike any other!

It is my hope and prayer that by the time you read this month's Gospel Seeds, the last remnants of our spring blizzard will be gone, spring will finally have arrived, and family, farm, and livestock are safe and sound without needing to worry about, at least for a short time, the threat of mother nature's power. After all, one of the most important events in our life of faith as a synod is taking place soon – SYNOD ASSEMBLY!

The 2021 WND Synod Assembly's theme focused our attention on Jesus' commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39) When the 2022 Synod Assembly gathers in a few short weeks, Jesus' commandment will still be ringing in our hearts and minds. After all, loving our neighbor is only possible because Jesus is always walking with us.

"Jesus: Everyday. Everywhere." (Matthew 28:16-20) is the theme of the 2022 Western North Dakota Synod Assembly. Under this theme we will listen deeply to the ways Jesus' commissioning of the first disciples at the end of Matthew's gospel is also the commissioning for Jesus' disciples across Western North Dakota in 2022.

The Synod Assembly is the highest legislative authority of a synod. Voting members from all 163 congregations across the synod will gather for worship and prayer, decision making and education, inspiration and fellowship. Throughout the assembly, we will hear from many of our ministry partners, have opportunities for learning and conversation, elect leadership to serve our synod, dive deeply into Holy Scripture during times of Bible study, and consider resolutions and memorials that will shape future mission and ministry for our synod and this church.



This year's assembly schedule is a little different. At their October 2021 meeting, the WND Synod Council unanimously approved moving the days of Synod Assembly from Thursday–Saturday to Friday–Sunday. It is our hope that this will give those who have been unable to participate in previous Synod Assemblies due to work or other commitments a chance to be part of this important event in our synod's mission and ministry. It is also our hope, that this will give all Rostered Ministers of our synod a chance to worship together without the worry of rushing home to lead Sunday morning worship.

I will offer a video sermon recording and manuscript for local congregational worship on June 5, 2022, so that all Rostered Ministers will be able to attend and participate in the full Synod Assembly schedule.

Much more information can be found on the Synod Assembly website – www.wndsynod.org/synod-assembly.

Finally, I invite you to keep all of our voting members in prayer for the Spirit to guide and bless our time together. Please join me in prayer in these final days of preparation...

Gracious God, you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Your guiding hand walks with us as we prepare to meet in assembly this year. Inspire those who have been called to serve as voting members of the 2022 Western North Dakota Synod Assembly to be bold in their proclamation and a witness to your presence in our lives each day. Direct us by the light of your Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, in the name of Christ Jesus, our risen Lord and Savior we pray. Amen. Bishop Craig

Cleanup Week at LCC – May 16-21

LCC will be hosting a clean up day on Wednesday May 18th from 7-8pm. We will be getting the lawn and outside of the building ready for summer. Please bring gloves and a rake. We hope you can join us. Treats and fellowship will be provided after clean up!

On Saturday, May 21, from 9 am til noon, we will host an indoor cleaning day. Bring gloves if you like and any cleaning tools you prefer (we do have cleaning supplies here, of course.) The coffee will be on and treats available!

If these times don't fit your schedule, we have a master list of things to be done. It will be in the plastic mailbox outside Connie's office. Simply come, choose a task, and when completed, cross it off and sign the sheet. Check with the office for entry possibilities if you'd like to come outside of normal hours. Many hands make for great fellowship and light work! Thank you for your time and elbow grease to help LCC shine.



**Come and
Join Us!**

Legacy Series Concludes

We finish our Stewardship of Life: Legacy series with two more sessions. Hope you can join us in the Multipurpose Room at 11:15 each day!

Session #5: *Funeral Pre-Planning.* Alison Braun joins us from Eastgate/Parkway Funeral Service to talk about pre-planning your funeral on Sunday, May 1st. This is not just about choosing scriptures and songs, but choices you make now can pre-clude family, legal and financial issues later. Come ask questions and learn more!

Session #6: *Leaving a Financial Legacy.* Rev. Keith Pearson, the ELCA Regional Gift Planner for our synod, will be with us on May 15, both in worship and for this session afterward. He works with individuals on legacy plans as well as with congregations' endowment committees. Best of all, he is available to us and to you free of charge. A bit of the offerings LCC sends on to the WND Synod and the ELCA fund his work for all of us. Whether you have a plan in place or would just like to hear more, please join us for this final session. You may think you have little or nothing to pass on, but you might be surprised. Come and see!

Love Your Neighbor Campaign for Missouri Slope ends May 8!

Thank you, everyone, for your fantastic support of the pancake and sausage breakfast on Palm Sunday, to benefit our campaign to help Missouri Slope finish and furnish the chapel at their new site. Thanks to all of you who have donated, and if you have not – good news! It's not too late. We will wrap up the formal campaign on May 8, Mothers' Day. If you've been contemplating an outright gift or a pledge over time (up to five years), now is a great time. We have forms you can use available in the church office, and you hopefully received a letter with them attached, as well. Please list LCC on your gift to credit our campaign. We look forward to announcing the total of our combined gifts soon. Your generosity in giving a gift of any size is much appreciated, and will impact residents' lives for many years to come. THANK YOU!!

Sheila Seuss bulletin board



Sheila Seuss' Work of Art



Angels Among Us

This month's Angel among us is a very talented person. Sheila Seuss has a beautiful, creative gift that she loves to share with us at LCC. If you have not checked out the bulletin board for Easter we invite you to do so. Sheila says she loves to be creative, paint and be crafty because there is no more room to do it in her home. Sheila also helps us out at LCC by being a church school teacher on Wednesday evenings, and helping with other projects around the church. In her free time Sheila is busy hanging out with her family or at work. If you see Sheila around please thank her for all that she does at Church of the Cross!

Altar Focus – “Mother the Camp”

Thank you for all the ways you support Camp of the Cross Ministries (CCM) – coming to retreats, sending your children and grandchildren to camp, work projects, etc.

Another key way you can help is to “Mother the Camp” this month by purchasing items to help keep camp running. There is something for everyone on the attached list, from office to food to craft items to maintenance to paper products and gas cards. All of these gifts help greatly with offsetting camp’s summer costs. You make a difference in this ministry! We have many copies of the list available at church – please pick one up for the next time you go shopping. When making your Mother’s Day plans, please consider a “Mother the Camp” donation!

Book Club Choices:

Meets the 3rd Wednesday at 1:30 in the Library.

May: **THE DUTCH HOUSE** by Ann Patchett

June: **THE BOOK OF LOST NAMES** by Kristen Harmel

July: **THE MAID** by Nita Prose

Aug. **BICYCLING WITH BUTTERFLIES** by Sara Dykman



Children Youth & Family Ministry

May 2022



Confirmation Schedule

May 4	Large Group Night Theme: <i>Please read: Acts 7:58 – 8:1, 9:1-30</i>
May 11	Small Group Night
May 18	Service Project Night and Fellowship/Treats
May 25	8 th Grade Mentor/Mentee Meeting

Church School Schedule

Sunday

May 1 Many Parts One Body - Family Worship
May 8 Youth Worship Service

Wednesday

May 4 Many Parts One Body Family Worship
May 11 Youth Worship Service

Graduating Seniors

Graduation Sunday will be held on Sunday May 22nd and Wednesday May 25th. Congratulations to our graduates: Olivia Lee, Becca Basingthwaite, Duncan Tufte, Mason Gurholt, Kaitlyn Hanson, Casey Odegaard, and Bud Taylor.



Vacation Bible School

VBS will be held June 6-8th at LCC, from 5:30-7pm. Our theme is “Tree of Healing.” Participants will learn about the health and wellness for us and for our neighbors. “Tree of Healing” VBS is a chance for children and adults to consider what health means and how God invites us to share in the building of a just world where all can enjoy the gifts of God’s creation. You can register online at: <https://form.jotform.com/lccdod/2022vbsregistration>
If you have any questions please contact Deacon Janie.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Family Worship 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour/Funeral Pre-planning	2 Needlework Group 9:30am	3	4 Supper 5:15 Wed. Worship 6:15 Family Worship 7pm Confirmation	5 Quilting 1pm 7:30pm AA Mtg.	6 Wired Word 1:30pm	7
8 9:00 Church School 10:00 Youth Service Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour/I Carmel Rolls	9 Needlework Group 9:30am	10	11 Supper 5:15 Youth Service 6:15 Church School/ Confirmation	12 Quilting 1pm Church Council 6:30pm 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	13 Wired Word 1:30pm	14
15 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour/ Leav- ing a Financial Legacy	16 Needlework Group 9:30am	17	18 Book Club 1 :30 "The Dutch House" Supper 5:15 Wed. Worship 6:15 Service Project Night	19 Quilting 1pm 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	20 Wired Word 1:30pm	21
22 Graduation Recognition 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee	23 Needlework Group 9:30a Knitting for Others 1pm	24	25 Early Morning Book Study 9 am Supper 5-:15 Wed. Worship 6:15p Graduation Recogni- tion Party	26 Quilting 1pm 7:30pm AA Mtg.	27 Wired Word 1:30pm	28
29 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour/	30 Needlework Group 9:30am	31	May Calendar 2022	Altar Focus: Mother the Camp		



1004 E Highland Acres Rd
Bismarck ND 58501

701.223.1001
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 Thursday 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