



The Cross Word June 2022

From Pastor Lisa

You make the winds your messengers. Psalm 104

You've probably heard me mention before that I like to go on walks. It's the way I think things through. It's the way I find solace - and it seems like we're always needing solace these days. It's a journeying that's good for my soul, as well as my body.

I was just thinking about a book I read quite a long time ago now: Kathleen Norris' "Dakota: A Spiritual Geography," published in 1993. That same year, I got to do a week long writing workshop with the author - who was not yet wildly famous, though she was about to be - out at Assumption Abbey at Richardton. My eldest daughter was less than a month old. I envisioned her slumbering happily for hours as I thought deep thoughts and wrote them down poetically for posterity. (I knew nothing about newborns when I planned this.) Suffice it to say I can glance at a baby and it will instantly be unswaddled, flailing and squawking. Turns out, they need to eat quite regularly, too. Who knew?

But I digress. I was truly taken by the concept of a spiritual geography. Kathleen Norris was a writer from New York City, who also spent some time growing up in Hawaii, if I remember right, and was now living with her poet husband in a house built by her grandparents in Lemmon, South Dakota - a town the same size as my hometown and only 60 miles away from it.

Maybe it takes the eye of someone from away, who listens and sees closely, to describe life amid the landscape of the Dakota prairie - harsh, desolate, and sublime - in a way that I never could but is truer than true of my life's experience. It is a book that resonated with me to my core. I commend it to you - we have a copy in the church library.

My favorite pieces of the book are small interludes between the chapters called "Weather Report" followed by a date. Now, there's no topic of higher priority in any conversation in the Dakotas than weather, but these small reports are much more spiritual reflections than how-hard-the-wind-is-blowing statistics.

It rings true to me that spirituality has geography and weather. How is your spirit faring these days? Do something to feed it. Read a good book. Go for a walk and smell the lilacs. Have a conversation with someone who hears you.

And should you feel windswept and barren inside, remember God who is even in the emptiness. And who loves, loves, LOVES you. Blessings surround you as the wind blows,

Pastor Lisa

LWR BABY CARE KITS

LCC's Altar Focus

SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- Please include sizes between 6 and 24 months. Varying the sizes of the clothing items included will make the Baby Care Kit useful as the baby grows.
- Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted from leftover yarn, or made from heavy double knits. Select a pattern that suits your skill level. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front.
- Diapers can be made from flannel or even by recycling t-shirts.
- If knitting or crocheting receiving blankets, including one knitted/crocheted blanket and one flannel blanket will provide maximum versatility.
- Onesies can be cut and hemmed or serged to make a simple t-shirt.
- Gowns, rompers or top/pants sets can be substituted for sleepers.
- Gently used, clean clothing and blankets (no stains or tears) may be substituted for new ones. It is especially important that the items be in excellent condition, as used clothing is increasingly difficult to get through customs in many countries. Even one item that looks worn or stained to local officials can jeopardize the status of a whole shipment. All other items (diapers, towel, soap) in the kit must be new.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH BABY CARE KIT

TWO lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies[®])

TWO long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)

TWO receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square

FOUR cloth diapers, flat fold preferred

ONE jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap

TWO pairs of socks

ONE hand towel, dark color recommended

TWO or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars

TWO diaper pins or large safety pins

HOW TO PACK YOUR KITS OF CARE

- Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with and secure with diaper pins.
- Bring to church and LCC will send them off.



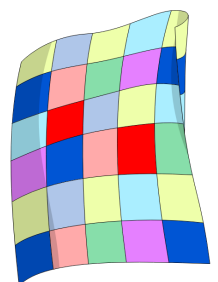
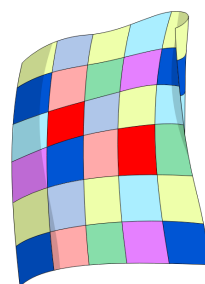
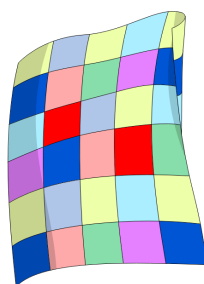
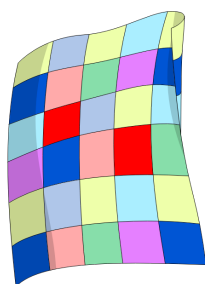
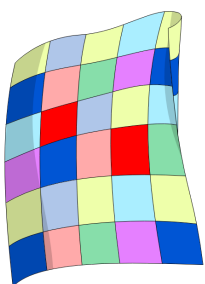
Camp of the Cross Ministries
Annual Prairie Lake Festival

Saturday, June 18, 2022

at Camp of the Cross Fellowship Center

LIVE AUCTION AT 11AM

DOORS OPEN AT 9AM



CAR Gifts Update

Our “sweet deal for CAR” Lenten offering for our sister church in the Central African Republic (encouraged by m&ms) reached a great milestone – we doubled our generous gifts from last year! Thanks to you, we are taking a gift of \$3054 with us to Synod Assembly for this offering! Thank you for your generosity.

Summer Picnics and Worship

Once again this summer we will get together one Wednesday evening each month for a grill out (meat, buns, beverages, paper products provided by LCC) and potluck at 5 pm, followed by worship at around 6 pm. This will happen on the second Wednesday of each month, so June 8, July 13, and August 10. We hope you can join us on the side lawn! We do have some chairs and tables, but feel free to bring your own lawn chair if you prefer.

Trekking Together

Do you enjoy walking in the summertime? Please join us for a new time to get together and visit while we walk. Each Wednesday (except the week of July 4) we will meet at church at 7 pm starting on June 8 (after worship) and go from there. Depending on numbers and preferred pace, we can split up into smaller groups if desired. There are many pleasant walking areas very nearby. Join us for a stroll and conversation. Good for the spirit!



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.

Angels Among Us

Our angel this month is Mark Murie. Originally from northwestern North Dakota, Mark is a long time member at LCC. He has always been active in music here at church, singing in the choir. Then, along with Jan and Joel Gilbertson, he was instrumental in starting The River service, moving to a worship team instead of a choir and lending our worship a more contemporary feel.

Mark has two daughters: Liz, who is married to Heath Patterson, with children Owen and Kari; and Jen, married to Tim Newman (our former pastoral assistant here at LCC!) with daughters Greta and Evy. His girls grew up at LCC and were very actively involved. Maybe it's hereditary, as Jen and Tim started up the Fusion band, leading our Wednesday worship!

After a sojourn in Hawaii (a place he loves), Mark has been back in Bismarck for about a year and a half as the building manager at the Plaza Towers. He is a perfectionist, with an eye for detail, a great work ethic and organizational skills, and is very efficient. You can see these traits in everything Mark does. He loves flowers and gardening. Mark was our custodian at LCC and took meticulous care of our building for years. He has a heart for service, caring for others at the Ronald McDonald House as well as recently stepping in to lead The River again on an interim basis. We are grateful. Please thank Mark for all he does!

Missouri Slope “Love Your Neighbor” Campaign Update

Thank you to all who stepped up and gave generously to this campaign to help finish and furnish the new chapel at Missouri Slope, whether through donations at the pancake breakfast, pledges or gifts. Every bit helped. Our goal was to match the \$25,000 challenge gifts with an equal amount. Good news: we have received that much and more! The amount currently is about \$66,000 total! (You are always welcome to give to this fund if you didn't or weren't able to before.) Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

Book Club Choices:

Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 1:30 in the Library.
June: **THE BOOK OF LOST NAMES** by Kristen Harmel

July: **THE MAID** by Nita Prose

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



Deacon Janie's Corner



June 2022

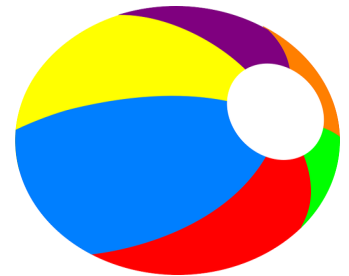


Night at the Lark June 6th

Join LCC for a night at the Larks on Monday June 6th to support Camp of the Cross Ministries. Tickets can be purchased here: <https://bismarck-larks.nwltickets.com/>

Day at Raging Rivers: June 22nd

Families of all ages and sizes are encouraged to join Janie at Raging Rivers on Wednesday June 22nd from noon to 6pm. Cost is \$15 per person.

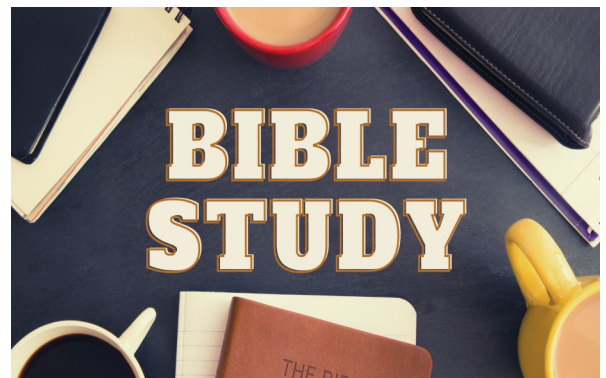


Theology on Tap June 7th 7:30pm

21 or older? Join Janie at the Bistro to dive deeper into faith and life questions.

Bible Study—June 28th 6pm

This bible study is geared towards adults who want to dive deeper into faith and the bible. For now, we will plan to meet once a month. We will follow the a bible study called *“unashamed, embracing your authentic self in a cookie cutter world, a bible study in Ephesians.”*



Save the dates for upcoming July events:

Clue Game July 16th

Day at camp July 31st

Ice cream social July 21st

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:30pm AA Mtg.	3 Synod Assembly Minot	4 Saturday Lunch at the Banquet LLC serves Synod Assembly Minot
5 10:00 The River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour Synod Assembly - Minot	6 Needlework Group 9:30am Larks game VBS 5:30-7pm	7 Theology on Tap 7:30 pm Bistro VBS 5:30-7pm	8 Picnic 5 pm & Worship 6pm Walking 7pm VBS 5:30-7pm	9 7:30pm AA Mtg.	10 Wired Word 1:30pm	11
12 10:00 The River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	13 Needlework Group 9:30am	14	15 Book Club 1 :30 "The Book of Lost Names" Church Council 6:30pm Walking 7pm	16 7:30pm AA Mtg.	17 Wired Word 1:30pm	18 Prairie Lake Festival Garrison, ND
19 10:00 The River Worship 11:00 Coffee	20 Needlework Group 9:30a Knitting for Others 1pm	21	22 Early Morning Book Study 9 am Raging Rivers Family Day noon-6pm Walking 7pm	23 7:30pm AA Mtg.	24 Wired Word 1:30pm	25
26 10:00 The River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	27 Needlework Group 9:30am	28 Adult Bible Study 6pm	29 Walking 7pm	30		



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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