

**From Pastor Lisa**

I wonder if you're familiar with Prairie Faith Devotions? These are daily devotions, usually brief videos, but occasionally a written devotion, posted each day on Facebook by one of a group of 45 or so pastors and deacons in western North Dakota. If you're on Facebook, you can find them simply by searching for the name: Prairie Faith Devotions. Hit the thumbs up "like" button, and they'll start showing up on your feed each day. It is very interesting to see what all the different people do with the Scripture passage or theme they choose to offer up each day. I commend them to you.

The reason I'm thinking about PFD, and hence exhorting you to try them out, is that I listened today to a devotion by Pastor Ellery Dykeman of Minot. He gave us a project: to go on a walk around the neighborhood – of our home, of our church, of downtown – and just observe. Who do we meet? What's going on? What do we see? Do we get any glimpses of what God might be up to around us? Do we get any sense of what God might be calling us to, a way to love and serve our neighbor right now, in this place?

Well, I like to go for walks. No excuse, or a mission-should-I-choose-to-accept-it needed! Off I went.

I am easily distracted, but I did manage to observe some things. For instance, the small house where the lawn hasn't been mown in quite a while. I remember thinking earlier, "maybe they're doing that 'no mow May' thing to help the bees." Only now it's far past May. I'm not sure who lives there. Could neighborly assistance with yard work be something that could be helpful?

Glory be, it wasn't too windy – just a light breeze. I was enchanted when I noticed a flood of bubbles come floating up over a house. Clearly someone in the backyard was blowing them. It gave me a rush of happiness, thinking of the joy blowing bubbles gives children. Who do I know that would have fun doing that? I just happen to have some bubble juice downstairs!

It had been windy recently, though, and there were plentiful sticks to pick up. I did a couple armloads to help out the mower of that place.

Down by the pond, there was a bird convention going on. I'd never seen or heard such a thing. It sounded for all the world like a bird professor, one voice, lecturing many others, with minor chitchat going on from their side. Then all of a sudden, the many voices got loud and raucous and with a great thunder of wings, they took off – leaving the professor behind. It felt for all the world like they were stomping off in a huff.

I will forever be curious as to what that was all about.... but it did set me to pondering. Not about birds, per se, but about people: where there may have been disagreement, and someone or several someones has/have stomped off, whether there is something I could do to help mend a breach.

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2.

This verse is part of the first lesson for the first Sunday in July, and so it was playing through my head as I walked. That's really what I interpreted Pastor Ellery to be suggesting. How can we bear one another's burdens?

I recommend a walk. Many things get sorted along the way. Blessings on the journey,

Pastor Lisa

Israel/Jordan Trip Planned for early 2023

Pastor Lisa is pastor/host for a trip to the Holy Land (offered by Judy's Leisure Tours travel agency in Fargo) January 27-February 8, 2023. This trip was originally planned for early 2022 but the pandemic intervened. Several members of our congregation went on a similar tour in 2019. If you are interested in learning more, ask Pastor Lisa or Mavis Pommerer. Brochures will be available soon.

Summer Bible Study options!

During the summer, our Gather Bible Study stops meeting. However, there are some other options if you'd like to join in!

The Wired Word study on Friday afternoons at 1:30 picks a current event topic and uses Scripture to help us think through it through the lens of faith. If you let Pastor Lisa know, she will put you on the list to email the study, which comes out on Thursday each week. Come whenever you can!

The morning Book/Bible study meets on the 4th Wednesday each month at 9 am. We are gradually working our way through "A Praying Life" by Paul E. Miller, but don't worry about preparing ahead, feel free to come. We will share books, and we read as we go!

Theology on Tap is a new gathering, at a new pub or place each month. This month we will gather at the Laughing Sun Brewery on Thursday, July 28th at 7:30 pm. It is very Lutheran to talk faith and life over beer! (or whatever you prefer)

Evening Bible Study is studying Ephesians, through a study called "Unashamed." We will meet on Tuesday, July 20th at 6 pm at church!

LWR BABY CARE KITS

LCC's July 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 needs our help!

Good news to share: an interim director has signed a contract for up to 18 months to serve Camp of the Cross. His name is Scott Jensen, and he will join CCM on July 10. A very warm welcome to Scott!!

Secondly, the staff has shared a list of items and service opportunities that would be a HUGE help to them. A couple of them may seem like a big thing to ask, but the thing is, how do people know how they can help, if we don't tell them? So here are some needs. If you would like to volunteer or have donations, or have ideas of someone you know who could help, please speak to Pastor Lisa.

List of needs/action items, either donations or volunteers:

- People who are certified in food service who may be willing to help out on a day/evening/weekend.
- An affordable 3/4 ton pickup in decent shape for hauling (I know! Hard ask)
- A larger tractor or skid steer (Also hard! But might you know of one?)
- Person or persons who would be willing to do steam cleaning of carpets and couches in a couple of the buildings.
- Coordinating a mowing/landscaping work group or a cleaning work group
- Promote/participate in the August 9th golf tournament (see www.campofthecross.com or watch for further info)

Missouri Slope Care Center 4th Annual Hillview Cup Golf Tournament wants YOU!

This event, held at Prairie West Golf Course in Mandan on July 14th, is an 18-hole 4 person scramble, so no pressure. The cost is \$125 person or \$500 team, and includes green fees, a cart, great swag including a cap and a pullover, pastries and coffee from Balancing Goat, fun and games, dinner and prizes. We are looking for people who want to have a good time and support Missouri Slope! Visit charitygolftoday.com/missourislope to sponsor or register a team. Join us!

Volunteer Opportunities!

Summer may be busy, or it may be a time with fewer work demands. Is it a great time to explore volunteering? There are many opportunities. Here are a few you might enjoy:

Heaven's Helpers Soup Café: volunteer for a two hour shift at soupcafe.org (there is info and instruction at that site)

Emergency Food Pantry: from 1-4:30 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays. Please call Gail at 701-255-0233 for more info.

Summer after-worship coffee hosts or dishwashers: sign up on clipboards on the table near the coffee pots. Everyone loves fellowship time!

Summer Outdoor Worship

Come join us for a grill-out and potluck picnic at 5 pm on Wednesday, July 13th – followed by a brief outdoor worship at 6 pm! We do have some tables and chairs; however, you are welcome to bring your own lawn chair if you like. LCC will provide the meats (chicken, hamburgers, hotdogs) and buns, along with water and possibly pop. Bring something to share! The Wednesday evening walking group will take off at 7 pm – wear your tennies and join us!

PS. Mark your calendar for our next outdoor worship featuring Camp of the Cross staff on Wednesday, August 10!

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!

Neighborhood Block Party Returns Wednesday, August 17!

Join friends and neighbors from the area at 5:30 pm for a potluck supper outdoors at the United Church of Christ, followed by dessert, lawn games, face painting and a bounce house for the kids at LCC! Come enjoy a lovely evening together before school starts!

Angels Among Us

Our angel this month is Floy Marx. Floy is a very gregarious person and notices newcomers right away. Once she learns a person's name, she can often tell them all about another person she knows by that name, too – sometimes from years ago and miles away! She likes to needlepoint name cards for others in their favorite colors. (You can see some examples of these displayed in the church staff's offices.) She also comes quilting with the LCC quilters when they meet during the program year. Coffee time at the end of each session is the best! Floy is a great photographer and likes to take pictures of LCC members together. Though she and her family recently went through the trauma and displacement of a serious house fire, Floy remains upbeat. You will often find her ushering on Sunday mornings. And, if you should see her during the week, her parting words are inevitably "I'll see you Sunday!" Thanks, Floy, for all you do!

Book Club Choices:

Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 1:30 in the Library.

July: Last Bus to Wisdom by Ivan Doig

Aug. Bicycling with Butterflies by Sara Dykman

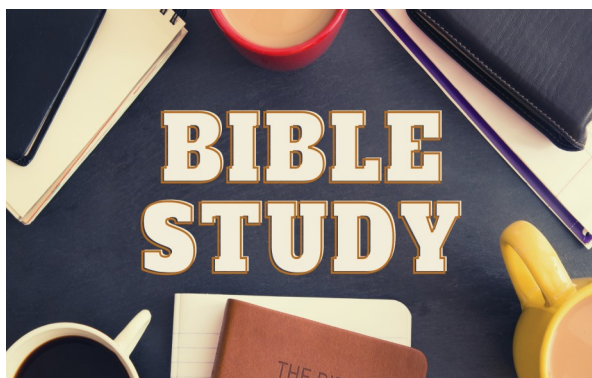
Deacon Janie's Corner



July 2022

Clue Game July 16th

Are you in junior high or high school? Think you could solve a murder case? Experience life as a Crime scene Investigator in this thrilling outdoor murder mystery event, coming to Bismack on Saturday the 16th of July 2022. From 10 am—1pm. Use forensic techniques, codebreaking, and good old-fashioned detective work to crack the case. Talk to Janie to sign up.



Bible Study—July 20th 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.”*

Theology on Tap July 28 7:30pm

21 or older? Join Janie at Laughing Sun Brewery to dive deeper into faith and life.

Day at camp July 31st

Join members from Church of the Cross to worship at Camp of the Cross on Sunday, July 31st at 10am. Church of the Cross is sponsoring the meal on the 31st after worship. All members are welcome to attend.

Save the Dates

Camping Trip

Like to go camping? Join Janie at Fort Lincoln State Park August 26th-28th for a weekend of relaxing and camping. We have 3 campsites reserved. Cost is \$55. Contact Janie to reserve your spot!

Ice Cream Social

Join the education team in welcoming members back to fall and school for an ice cream social August 21st. There will be lawn games and of course ice cream and all the toppings!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
JULY 2022					1 Wired Word 1:30pm	2
3 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	4 Fourth of July Office Closed	5	6 No Trekking Together	7 7:30pm AA Mtg.	8 Wired Word 1:30pm	9
10 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	11 Needlework Group 9:00am	12	13 Book Club 1 :30 Picnic & Worship 5pm, 6pm Council 6:30pm Trekking Together 7pm	14 7:30pm AA Mtg.	15 Wired Word 1:30pm	16 Clue Game 10am— 1pm
17 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee	18 Needlework Group 9:00am	19	20 Early Morning Book Study 9 am Adult Bible Study 6pm Trekking Together 7pm	21 7:30pm AA Mtg.	22 Wired Word 1:30pm	23
24 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour 31 10:00 River Worship Also at COC 11:00 Coffee Hour/ Meal @ COC	25 Needlework Group 9:00am	26 Adult Bible Study 6pm	27 Trekking Together 7pm	28 Theology on Tap 7:30 Laughing Sun Brewery	29 Wired Word 1:30pm	30



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E-News

Worship Times:

Wednesday Worship
6:15pm (School year)

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

July 13

Book Club 1:30pm

Picnic 5:00pm

Worship 6:00 pm

Church Council 6:30pm

Trekking Together 7pm

Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts