



“From Pastor Lisa

Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up.” Proverbs 12:25

Weeds. I’ve been thinking about them. Not because I’m a master gardener – ha! - but because of the extravagant growth of things in this (thankfully) non-drought year. I have several different walking routes, and I enjoy seeing the changes in the plants around me as the summer goes on. (You can also do this while driving, or even by looking out your window!) What struck me yesterday is how the weeds were flourishing.

There were some I don’t remember seeing before, vining around a wire fence, with blooms like the flowers of a Japanese tree lilac, only not in tree form. There were thistles (I’m not a thistle fan), some going to seed – how I wish there was a way to keep those downy seeds from becoming billions more thistles! – but those in bloom were like an absolute flood of bright purple. And my favorites were the cheerful, clean white bells of the creeping jenny. Now I realize these are the bane of lawn and garden purists, but I remember loving them even in the ditches and along the curbs as a kid. And yesterday, twined around and through a chain link fence, they weren’t impeding its work in any way – but they sure were pretty.

Also yesterday, on my walk, I realized a group of artists had been at work, because every 20 yards or so I found a brightly colored rock. Some of them carried encouraging messages: Be kind. You are loved. Dream big. Be different. Love. Be happy. And some of them, I suspect the artist may not have been old enough to write messages on them yet, and so wanted me to just enjoy the bright colors and designs of their artistry.

I truly enjoy the sights as I walk, the occasional encounters with someone I know, the songs of the birds, small surprises and once in awhile, the opportunity to talk with a friend or two, which makes miles fly by. I go to move my body a bit. It’s “supposed to be good for you.” It helps me think through things. It’s a good time to pray. All that is true and good.

This world is full of worries, isn’t it. They’re like weeds. I find in my sermon notes that at least for the last 31 years, it has always been so. Walking is a way to lighten the darkness, when worry or anxiety or depression threaten to become overwhelming. Talking to a friend and talking to God are good ways, too.

I realized those cheerful little rocks made a lovely difference in my day. I didn’t even need to pick one up and take it with me because I paused to admire each one of them, and I remembered them.

When the weeds of worry make you anxious that things aren’t going as they should, as you intended, that this isn’t the way it’s supposed to be: trust God, who cares for you with the deepest love. And listen to the small surprise messages among the weeds: Be kind. You are loved. Dream big. Be different. Love. Be happy.

In fact, share those small messages with others. It makes a difference. You are loved!
In Christ,
Pastor Lisa

Altar Focus – August – School Supplies!

Is there anything more exciting than new school supplies? We will be collecting items for students during the month of August – grab a few extra things as you shop for your own youngsters, or make a special trip for those without. Some of the items will be packed into school kits for Lutheran World Relief, and will be sent off with the quilts in October. (See lists available in narthex for what goes into a kit, or google “LWR school kits”.) The school year runs differently in other countries – for instance, Guatemalan schools begin in later January – so don’t worry that we’re too late. Remaining items will be distributed at our neighborhood elementary schools, Roosevelt and Highland Acres. Thank you for your generosity to help kids learn and grow!

Special Alert! Women’s jeans needed

Pastor Gail Hagerty has alerted us that Bridges of Hope (Heart River Lutheran’s prison/post prison ministry) has an urgent need for larger sizes of women’s jeans (sizes 16 and up). Bridges of Hope has a clothes closet to help women leaving prison, who often have little or nothing. Contact the church office for more information.

Introducing Our Newest Staff Member!

We want to issue a warm welcome to Beth Greff, who has accepted the Worship and Music Coordinator position! Beth’s busy life includes her work as a long-time librarian with Mandan Public Schools, and a wife, mom and grandmother! We are grateful for her gifts and her willingness to jump in with both feet. Take some time to get to know Beth and welcome her to LCC!

Israel/Jordan trip scheduled in early 2023

In 2019, several members of LCC, plus friends, family and others who joined us, visited Israel. It is a journey that enriched our faith, expanded our horizons and understanding, and allowed us to hear Scripture in a whole new way. We had always planned to offer the trip again – first in 2022, but that got pushed back to 2023. This time the journey to the Holy Land will also include an extension to Jordan. Full brochures are available in the narthex. There will also be an informational meeting on Sunday, August 14 at 7 pm in the multipurpose room at LCC. Come learn more details and be inspired by others who are going! Dates of the trip are Jan. 27-Feb.8, 2023. If you’d like to visit Israel, but don’t wish to do the Jordan extension, that is possible, too. Please speak to Pr. Lisa or Mavis Pommerer if you’d like to learn more but can’t make the info meeting. All are welcome; you don’t need to be an LCC member to go on this journey!

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP This Month's Gospel Seeds
Source: <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8163>

2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly meets under the theme "Embody the Word"

Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will gather for the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Aug. 8-12 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. Meeting under the theme "Embody the Word," the assembly will participate in plenary discussions to make decisions about the work of this church. They will also spend time in worship and Bible study.

The triennial gathering — the highest legislative body of the denomination — will be composed of more than 900 voting members serving on behalf of the 3.3 million members of the ELCA. The ELCA's 65 synods elect voting members to serve at churchwide assemblies.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton will open the assembly on Tuesday, Aug. 9, with a land acknowledgment noting that the gathering is taking place on the original and ancestral homelands of the Shawnee, Miami and Kaskaskia peoples. Tribal leaders from the Miami Nation will bring welcome to the assembly.

The assembly will then commemorate the 35th anniversary of the ELCA, which was formed when the ELCA constitution was adopted during the opening session of the Constituting Convention in Columbus on April 30, 1987. The church was formed from a merger of the American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and the Lutheran Church in America.

The day will include a nonlegislative session to offer a public apology to Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina and a public commitment to anti-racism. This is in response to recent events in this church that have caused harm to people, communities, and the whole body of Christ.

In other key assembly action, voting members will:

- Elect a vice president. The position of vice president is the highest a layperson can hold in the ELCA. Carlos Peña is serving as interim vice president following the death of Bill Horne last August. Horne was elected vice president by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.
- Approve budget proposals for the 2023, 2024 and 2025 fiscal years.
- Vote on amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA.

Voting members will also receive:

- A report from the presiding bishop and officers of the ELCA.
- The first public in-person announcement of "A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to American Indian and Alaska Native People" and an update on the work of the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery Task Force. The declaration is a direct result of the social policy resolution adopted by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.
- A presentation by Fawn Sharp, president of the National Congress of American Indians.
- Proposals (known as memorials) from the ELCA's 65 synods that address social justice issues and matters relating to the structure of the ELCA, including greenhouse gas reduction; gun violence; LGBTQIA+ welcome; pastoral counseling as a result of changes to Roe v. Wade; the land back movement; ELCA governance restructure; specialized ministries and on leave from call status; and review and revision of the ELCA social statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust, adopted by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

Wired Word on Fridays – Join us!

Wired Word is a study that takes something in current events that's happening in the world and offers Scripture and challenging questions with which to approach the topic. Every week is different; no need to come every time – do come when you are able! We meet in the conference room just off the offices (unless the group is too big, when we adjourn to the fellowship hall), Fridays at 1:30 pm. Have Pastor Lisa put you on her email list, and you will receive the topic(s) the day before.

Harvest Table

Are you such a successful gardener that you just can't use all your produce? Feel free to bring some to church to share! Many of our members are unable to garden and appreciate some fresh home grown veggies. We will have a table in the narthex and plenty of bags available, starting Sunday, August 7 until the gardens are done.

Block Party with the neighbors!

This is becoming a great new tradition! Join the neighborhood for a potluck dinner at the UCC church at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, Aug. 17, followed by dessert, lawn games, face painting and a bounce house at LCC! If you'd be willing to help bake desserts, please speak to Pastor Lisa.

Last Summer Worship and Picnic Aug. 10!

Join us for our last grill out and potluck picnic of the summer, followed by a brief worship led by the Camp of the Cross staff. They will have (practically moments before!) just have wrapped up their summer and will be full of excitement to share with us. All this fun happens on Wednesday, August 10, starting at 5 pm. We will be accepting a free will offering to defray their mileage expenses. Note to council members: council will meet after worship that evening, approximately 6:30 pm.

Book Club Choices:

Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 1:30 in the Library. Aug. Bicycling with Butterflies by Sara Dykman
The next meeting new books will be chosen to read . So come with suggestions.



Summer Outdoor Worship

Come join us for a grill-out and potluck picnic at 5 pm on Wednesday, August 10th – 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!

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

Mike and Kim Humann are our Angels of the Month for August. Mike is currently serving as Vice President of the Council. He is a go to guy. Ask him to do something and he is on it. He takes his responsibilities seriously which is appreciated by those on the Council because he gets things done on a timely basis. Serving on the Council also isn't new to him. Many a year ago he served. He has also been the grill Meister for this summer picnics. Mike has also served as a confirmation teacher making that a three- year commitment meeting with the male youth of the church. Newly retired in April, Mike hasn't let the grass grow under his feet as he has already taken on a part time job. Mike, we appreciate your willingness to serve your church and your community.

Kim is currently serving as a Faith and Care Monthly Coordinator. She has taken part in the Early Morning Bible Study, the Women's retreats, and the congregational life of this church wherever needed throughout the years. She introduced the "First 5" app to the women which is an ongoing study of the Bible. Someone described Kim to the author as a strong, quiet presence with a servant's heart. Kim, we appreciate you for your willing attitude to help out when asked.

When you see Kim and Mike thank them for their generous gift of time to this congregation.

Deacon Janie's Corner



August 2022



Theology on Tap August 25th 7:30pm

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

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!



Confirmation/Mentor Meeting

Confirmation begins in just a few short weeks! Orientation will be held on Wednesday, September 7th for grades 6, 7, and 8 in the Fellowship Hall. Please talk to Deacon Janie if you have any questions.

Confirmation students who are in the mentor program will have a meeting on Wednesday, September 7th at 7pm with their mentors in the multi purpose room. Please talk to Janie if you have any questions.

Church School

Church school begins on Sunday September 11th and Wednesday September 14th with Rally Day. Parents and students are invited to attend, meet teachers and learn about the flow of Church School. Please register your son/daughter for church school. Registration

forms can be found at the information table in the narthex.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
August 2022	1 Needlework Group 9:00am	2 Helping Hands 4pm	3 Trekking Together 7pm	4 7:30pm AA Mtg.	5 Wired Word 1:30pm	6
7 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	8 Needlework Group 9:00am	9	10 Book Club 1:30 Picnic & Worship 5pm, 6pm Council 6:30pm Trekking Together 7pm	11 7:30pm AA Mtg.	12 Wired Word 1:30pm	13
14 10:00 River Worship/ Baptism 11:00 Coffee Hour	15 Needlework Group 9:00am	16	17 Block Party @UCC Dessert/games here Trekking Together 7pm	18 7:30pm AA Mtg.	19 Wired Word 1:30pm	20
21 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour Ice Cream Social -noon	22 Needlework Group 9:00am	23	24 Early Morning Book Study 9 am Trekking Together 7pm	25 7:30pm AA Mtg. Theology on Tap 7:30pm Laughing Sun Brewery	26 Wired Word 1:30pm Camping Ft. Lincoln State Park	27 Camping Ft. Lincoln State Park
28 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	29 Needlework Group 9:00am	30	31 Trekking Together 7pm			



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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

August 10 Book Club 1:30pm

Picnic 5:00pm

Worship 6:00 pm

Church Council 6:30pm

Trekking Together 7pm

August 17 Block Party with UCC

Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts