



The Cross Word January 2023

From Pastor Lisa

Leaning, leaning, leaning on the promises of God my Savior
Leaning, leaning – I'm leaning on the promises of God! - ELW #774

We are just ending one year and beginning one anew. This is inevitably a time of reflection on how the last year went, and our hopes and dreams for 2023. Some people can't wait to see the back-side of 2022, and some are pleased with how things in their lives are going, and hope for continued progress along their path.

None of us knows what the new year will bring (except God, of course). I'm certain the number of us who expected a worldwide pandemic in 2020 was fairly low! One of the beautiful things about a new year is that it offers new hope. People often think of it as a clean slate or a fresh start. Isn't that what new year's resolutions are about anyway? 2023 will be no different.

The good news is that you know God – and God knows you. We talk in worship about God's promises. I was reflecting on some of my favorite passages of Scripture, and the promises they hold for us. Here are some of them:

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:18-19

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

As far as it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans 12:18

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:11-13

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. . . And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

No matter what our circumstances, there is much for which to be grateful. No matter what the future brings, God holds us – and nothing will take us from God's hand.

Blessings to you as we walk into the new year together!

Altar Focus for January

This altar focus was one of our most popular last year, and highly valued by the agencies which benefited: we challenged ourselves (and our ecumenical partners, just for good measure) to bring new pillows and new or used pillowcases to church for our altar focus this month. Pillows are items that are always in demand for the homeless population, and this collection will be split between Ministry on the Margins and the United Way homeless shelter. You may also bring bedding of any size – please bundle together and indicate size. We had a good response last year, with 70 pillows collected along with pillowcases and bedding. Let's see if we can do even better this year! Thank you for your generosity!

Angels Among Us

Our angel this month is a person who never stops doing for others, and yet doesn't want to call any attention to herself because of it. (Sorry about that; I'm going to do it anyway.) Mavis Pommerer is a servant leader among us: she is a terrific cook and baker, hosting Sunday coffee time, serving funerals and any other occasion with kitchen needs. She has been one of our monthly Faith and Care coordinators and serves on the Helping Hands committee, making meals for others and caring for them in many ways. She serves as a reader and communion assistant for worship, and is willing to jump in wherever there is need. She also invites a whole circle of neighbors and card playing friends over to her house a few times a month to make knoeple for Heaven's Helpers Soup Café. Mavis is a special education teacher and consultant by vocation, and gives thoughtful attention to each altar focus and to others' needs. She is also a great Bible study leader! Mavis is a world traveler, and has led thirty-some trips all over the world with school groups, friends and family. She was so inspired by her first visit to the Holy Land that she was the great encourager for LCC to host our first trip to Israel, and coming up this January, our second. Thank you, Mavis, for giving so freely of yourself to others! When you see her, do give our angel a thankful pat on the back!

Heat the Church. We are grateful to you who have donated dollars in memory of loved ones to support this program. The calendars are out on the round table in the narthex. Thank you for being willing to donate extra funds to the church during our cold winters months. December—February \$25/day, March \$10/day.



Book Club

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

January: *The Sunflower Sisters* by Martha Hall Kelly



Come to the January meeting and give your ideas for future book club selections

Deacon Janie's Corner



January 2023



Theology on Tap January 19th 7:00pm

21 or older? Join Janie at Blarney Stone to dive deeper into & life questions.

Confirmation Schedule

January	4	Large Group Night Theme: Creed Overview and Exploring Article 1 <i>Please read: Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:28-34 Genesis 1:1-2:25</i>
	11	Small Group Night
	18	Large Group Night Theme: Exploring Article 2 <i>Please read: Matthew 1:18-25</i>
	25	Large Group Night Theme: Exploring Article 3 <i>Please read: John 14:15-17; Acts 2:1-13</i>
February	1	Small Group Leaders' Party

Church School Schedule

Sunday		Wednesday	
January 1	No Church School	January 4	Boy Jesus in the temple
January 8	Memory Work – The Lord's prayer	January 11	Memory Work – Lord's Prayer
January 15	No Church School	January 18	Jesus Calls the Disciples
January 22	Jesus Calls the Disciples	January 25	Jesus walks on water
January 29	Valentine's Day Cards	February 1	Valentine's Day Cards
February 6	Jesus turns water into wine	February 8	Jesus turns water into wine

Children Youth and Family Events

January 8th: Confirmation Students will be selling Caramel Rolls to help them raise funds to pay for camp in the summer.

January 8th: Middle School and High School Youth Group. Meet at Midway lanes to go bowling at 2pm. We will be done by 3:30pm.

January 29th: Middle School and High School Youth Group. Meet at LCC at 2pm for food, fun, time with Jesus and games.

January 15: Youth in Grades 3-5 are invited to join Deacon Janie for a late night "mock" in Lock-in from 7-9pm. Please let Janie know if your son/daughter is planning on attending.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:15am No Church School 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	2 Office Closed	3	4 5:15pm Supper Worship Service 6:15pm Church School Confirmation 7pm	5 Women's Bible Study 10:30am Theology on Tap 7pm 7:30pm AA Mtg.	6 Wired Word 1:30pm	7 Men's Bible Study 10am
8 9:15am Church School 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour/Carmel Rolls Middle & High School Youth Grp Midway Lanes	9 Needlework Group 9:00am	10 Staff Meeting 10am	11 Book Club 1:30 5:15pm Supper Worship Service 6:15pm Church School Confirmation 7pm	12 Quilting 1pm Church Council 6:30pm 7:30pm AA Mtg.	13 Wired Word 1:30pm	14 Men's Bible Study 10am
15 9:15 No Church School 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour Youth Grd 3-5 "mock In" 7—10pm	16 Needlework Group 9:00am Israel Travel grp mtg 1pm	17 Staff Meeting 10am	18 Supper 5:15pm Worship Service 6:15pm Church School / Confirmation 7pm	19 Quilting 1pm Theology on Tap 7pm 7:30pm AA Mtg.	20 Wired Word 1:30pm	21 Men's Bible Study 10am
22 9:15 Church School 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Annual Meeting Potluck	23 Needlework Group 9:00am	24 Staff Meeting 10am	25 Women's Book Study 9:00am Supper 5:15pm Worship Service 6:15pm Church School / Confirmation 7pm	26 Quilting 1pm 7:30pm AA Mtg.	27 Wired Word 1:30pm	28 Men's Bible Study 10am
29 9:15 NO Church School 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Hour Middle & High School Youth Grp 2pm	30 Needlework Group 9:00am	31 Staff Meeting 10am				



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E-News

Worship Times:

Wednesday Worship
6:15pm (School year)
Sunday Worship
The River Service
10:00am

Lutheran Church of the Cross

Lisa Ahlness, Pastor
Janie Hague, Deacon

Office Hours:

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

Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts