



## The Cross Word February 2023

Friends in Christ.

I am sure by now you have all heard the news that I have resigned from my position here at Lutheran Church of the Cross. I have accepted a new position at Camp of the Cross Ministries as their new Executive Director. While I am excited about this new call, I am also sad to be leaving such a wonderful congregation. You have walked with me as I finished Seminary, and then we went through a pandemic together. We learned what it means to be church together, and what it means to live out church beyond the walls of Church of the Cross. You opened your arms to me when my ordination could not be at my home congregation due to the pandemic. YOU were the start of my ordained ministry, and for that I am forever grateful. YOU will hold a special place in my heart. John 14:26-27 says, "Peace, I leave you; my peace I give you." My friends my peace I leave with you and my peace I give to you as we depart our ways, know that we are forever united through the love of Christ. This isn't necessarily a good-bye it is I will see you later. We have learned from each other, we have grown together, and while our time together in this place comes to a close; it is also a time for us to journey into what God might be calling us to next. My last day will be Thursday February 23rd. Feel free to stop by the office or give me a call in this last month as we journey together.

Deacon Janie Hague  
Director of Discipleship  
Lutheran Church of the Cross  
1004 E Highland Acres Road  
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701-223-1001

**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.

February The Sunflower Sisters by Martha Hall Kelly

March: Remarkable Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

April: Vanishing Half by Brit Bennet

May: Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson

June: We are the Light by Matthew Quick

July: So Long Chester Wheeler by Catherine Ryan Hyde



## Lenten Series

Our Lenten series this year will be from sanctified art entitled *seeking*. Taken from their website: "There are many stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking: Nicodemus comes to him in the veil of night, he approaches a Samaritan woman at a well, he heals a man born without sight. In these stories, each person is seeking a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. What unfolds is an exchange filled with questions and exploration. Often, an unveiling occurs—assumptions are disrupted, a new perspective is revealed, mystery grows.

And so, we've crafted a Lenten series founded on questions. Many of our weekly questions feel restorative ("Can these bones live?"). Some feel like a charge or challenge ("Who will you listen to?"). Some questions are hopeful and curious ("How do we begin again?"). Our questions won't necessarily lead to answers, but they can help us find clarity and a new perspective. Ultimately, we pray they lead to a new beginning, a restoration, a wider grace.

Like the characters in our Lenten scriptures, we are also seeking many things: clarity, connection, wonder, justice, balance. We are seeking our calling, the sacred, and how to live as a disciple. Throughout the turbulence of the past few years, many of us are asking big questions about our lives and our faith. We hope this series will help us unpack some of those big questions in ways that are honest and faithful. Throughout this season, we hope you will continually ask yourself: what am I seeking? What is God seeking?

This Lent, we invite you to engage in the spiritual practice of seeking. We encourage you to stay curious, open, and nimble. We hope you will soften your assumptions and expand your perspectives. We pray that these questions will create a safe space to explore—to be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God."

So please join us every Wednesday from February 22nd-March 29th to seek together Jesus. A soup supper will be served from 5:15-6pm and worship will begin at 6:15pm.

## **Angels Among Us**

It's possible you remember the big snow storms of November and December this year. (I grin.) One of the benefits of having a mostly flat roof on our church is that it's easier and less dangerous to climb around on. One of the consequences of having a mostly flat roof is that it collects giant drifts after such heavy storms! Our three angels this month have spent weeks clearing the heavy snow off LCC's roof: John Kraft, Mike Humann, and Paul Gurholt. This was quite an operation, requiring much shoveling and pushing snow off the roof, and then moving the resulting mountains of snow off the parking lot and pathways around the church with snowblowers and skidsteers. They have without complaint done a huge amount of work in often adverse weather conditions, and have saved the church a great deal of money by taking it on themselves. Please join me in thanking these angels, from the bottom of our hearts!

## **Who Doesn't Love a Party? Unless it means Deacon Janie's leaving....**

Deacon Janie's last day among us at LCC is February 23<sup>rd</sup>. We hope you'll take some time to spend with her if you can. Cards and remembrances of good times together will be collected at church – you can bring them anytime between now and the 23<sup>rd</sup>. MEANWHILE: we will have cupcakes and a celebration on Wednesday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> after worship/before confirmation and church school, and cake and fellowship after worship on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Please come and thank Deacon Janie and wish her well in her new call as Executive Director of Camp of the Cross!

## **Rabbi Noah Ullman**

Last spring, we had the wonderful opportunity to have Rabbi Noah Ullman with us here at LCC. Noah is young rabbi, originally from Boston and now based in the Fargo area, with a gift for bringing in Hebrew insights and helping the biblical narrative come alive for all ages and levels of fluency with scripture. Due to popular demand, Rabbi Noah is coming back to Bismarck and you have several opportunities to join in. Those of you who have experienced him already know the joy he brings to scripture study. If you have not yet engaged with Rabbi Noah, you will want to make room in your calendar for at least one of these conversation based studies. A free will offering will be taken.

### **Wednesday, March 1st:**

9-11 a.m. at Faith Lutheran Church: open study, followed by lunch

4:30-6:30 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church: study for confirmation students, leaders and parents, including pizza

7-9 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Cross: study for confirmation students, leaders and parents (supper provided 5-6 p.m. before worship). Study will be over at 8:30; stay for further fellowship if you like!

### **Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at LCC**

Come for morning or afternoon study, or stay all day. Lunch will be provided.

9-11 a.m. Study      Lunch      1-3 p.m. Study

## Altar Focus for February

Two options this month: choose one or help with both!

You may have seen in the news that many student lunch accounts are way behind this year, probably because families are struggling due to inflation and already stretched budgets. We will be collecting money to assist Bismarck Public Schools pay off delinquent accounts. Please drop cash at the office or in envelopes, marked "BPS lunch", in the offering baskets. Checks should be marked on the memo line. If you prefer to give with credit or debit card, go directly to [bpsfoundation.com/donations/student-lunch-assistance](https://bpsfoundation.com/donations/student-lunch-assistance).

Bring items for the Power of Play Foundation, which provides toys and objects of comfort to pediatric patients in Bismarck, ND hospitals, emergency departments, surgery centers, and clinics. Our goal is to help children in our local healthcare system feel at ease during a scary, stressful time. Art supplies are always in high demand and a great way for patients to pass time. We are in need of the following items:

1. Crayola markers
2. Crayola crayons
3. Crayola colored pencils
4. Gel pens
5. Coloring books, popular characters (toddler-teen)
6. Sketch books
7. Puzzle/activity books (toddler-teen)
8. Stickers
9. Play-doh
10. Washable paint kits

For more information, see [powerofplayfoundation.com](https://powerofplayfoundation.com), or speak to Sarah Dahl.



**OUT OF THE OFFICE** Pastor Lisa and Deacon Janie will be gone February 3rd-8th. Pastor Sondra Krogstad will be on call should you need pastoral assistance during that time. Her cell phone number is: 1-408-276-2711. Deacon Janie will also be available via text and can get you in touch with Pastor Sondra as well.



**Giving Hearts Day** is coming up on February 9th – just about 2 weeks away!!

There are a lot of fun things happening on and around the big day. For every \$25+ donation we receive for GHD, we will be giving a single stem rose to a resident/tenant. We are hoping to be able to gift every resident and tenant a rose on Valentine's Day.

We also will be hosting a golf event on GHD. This is a great way to support GHD and Missouri Slope in a fun way! If you or anyone you know would be interested in participating, send them our way! There will be lunch, raffle prizes, and golf! (golfing is not required! Just come enjoy lunch and try for a chance to win some great raffle items!)

Schedule your donation: <https://app.givingheartsday.org/#/profile/490>

Sign up for golf event: <https://mslcc.salsalabs.org/mslccfoundationgolf>

The other really awesome thing happening: Gate City Bank is giving away (5) \$5,000 donations and (1) \$100,000 donations. We need your help to win! You can nominate as many times as you want between now and February 2nd. The more nominations, the higher the odds of winning.

You can nominate here: <https://woobox.com/dwcp9u>

We are registered as Missouri Slope Foundation

(remember- you can nominate an unlimited amount of times!)

Thank you all for your support! If you have any questions about GHD at Missouri Slope please reach out!

# Deacon Janie's Corner



February 2023

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## Confirmation Schedule

February	1	Small Group Leaders' Party
	8	Small Group
	15	Service Project Night – Making Plarn
	22	Ash Wednesday – Church attendance is required
March	1	<b>Large Group Night Theme: The Greatest Prayer/Lord's Prayer</b> <i>Please read: Matthew 6:5-15</i>

## Church School Schedule

### Sunday

February 6	Jesus turns water into wine
February 12	Whole Family - Lost sheep and coin
February 19	No Church School
February 26	Memory Work – Apostles Creed
March 5	Jesus feeds the 5000

### Wednesday

February 1	Valentine's Day Cards
February 8	Jesus turns water into wine
February 15	Whole Family/Lost sheep and coin
February 22	No Church School: Ash Wednesday
March 1	Memory Work – Apostles Creed
March 8	Jesus feeds the 5000

## Children Youth and Family Events

**February 20th:** Youth grades 6-12 Are invited to Join Janie at Huff Hills for a day of fun skiing or snowboarding. Meet at Huff Hills at 9:30am. Youth can be picked up at 5pm. Lift ticket and rentals will be covered, but participants should bring money for food.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>February 2023</b>						
<b>5</b> 9:15am Church School 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	<b>6</b> Needlework Group 9:00am	<b>7</b> Staff Meeting 10am	<b>8</b> Book Club 1:30 5:15pm Supper Worship Service 6:15pm Church School Confirmation 7pm	<b>9</b> Quilting 1pm <b>Church Council</b> 6:30pm 7:30pm AA Mtg.	<b>10</b> Wired Word 1:30pm	<b>11</b> Men's Bible Study 10am
<b>12</b> 9:15 Church School 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	<b>13</b> Needlework Group 9:00am	<b>14</b> Staff Meeting 10am	<b>15</b> Supper 5:15pm Worship Service 6:15pm Cake with Janie Church School / Confirmation 7pm	<b>16</b> Quilting 1pm 7:30pm AA Mtg.	<b>17</b> Wired Word 1:30pm	<b>18</b> Men's Bible Study 10am
<b>19</b> 9:15 NO Church School 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour/Cake with Janie	<b>20</b> Needlework Group 9:00am <b>Huff Hills Gr 6-12</b> <b>9:30 -5pm</b>	<b>21</b> Staff Meeting 10am	<b>22 Ash Wednesday</b> Women's Book Study 9:00am Lenten Soup Supper 5:15pm Worship Service 6:15pm NO C.S. or confirmation	<b>23</b> <b>Women's Bible</b> <b>Study 10:30am</b> Quilting 1pm 7:30pm AA Mtg.	<b>24</b> Wired Word 1:30pm	<b>25</b> Men's Bible Study 10am
<b>26</b> 9:15 Church School 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Hour	<b>27</b> Needlework Group 9:00am Knitting 4 Others 1pm	<b>28</b> Staff Meeting 10am				



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## E-News

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### Worship Times:

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

### Lutheran Church of the Cross

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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**