



The Cross Word

April 2023

From Pastor Lisa

Friends in Christ,

We certainly have needed our shovels and snowblowers this winter! “Mount Bismarck”, as one giant snow pile has been dubbed, towers over the Menard’s parking lot – and it has mates throughout the area. Some years spring has more trouble “springing” to life in North Dakota!

Easter Sunday, of course, will dawn no matter what the weather is. That Sunday and our celebration of its promise have arrived again this year. And this is a point worth making: Easter’s promise does not depend on what surrounds it. Easter’s promise is kept no matter what. Easter’s promise, in fact, needs what is most unpromising in order to be seen and known.

We celebrate Easter in the spring, but Easter’s promise is most potent when our hearts and souls are most wintry. Greening grass and emerging flowers may give us a lift at Easter, but it’s Easter’s hope that sustains us when our own hope has died and we have nothing left but the promise of Jesus Christ, crucified. Maybe that’s why I look for the geese returning – not because they are a sign of spring, but because they fly toward home. At Easter, our hearts do, too.

I look forward to seeing you this Holy Week!

May we continue to live in the hope and expectation Easter brings! Peace.

Pastor Lisa

Lent Altar Focus – Sweet Deal for CAR & LDR

We will continue the Sweet Deal for CAR (Central African Republic) through April (instead of just through Easter). An additional project you may want to support is Lutheran Disaster Response. They have been quick on the ground, as they always are when disaster strikes, in Mississippi, where the terrible tornado just wiped out an entire town. You can write checks to Lutheran Disaster Response or just LDR, and memo it “tornado” or leave blank if you want it to go to the place of greatest need. We will bring you more information as we get it. Thank you for your generosity to places of great need.

Angels Among Us

Our angel this month is a quiet, gentle presence all around at LCC. Donna Belisle is a fantastic baker who is always willing to do her thing for an event at church and to help serve and work. She serves on altar guild readying communion things for worship, and helps serve communion as well. She is one of our quilters, making beautiful things for others. Donna enjoys playing cards and going out with her many friends, to eat, to plays and musicals, etc. (She has had years of practice attending the many, MANY sports and activities of her four kids and oodles of grandkids and great grands.) Donna travels to visit and keep up with her sisters and her son and family in Alaska. They are a close family and enjoy lots of fun times together, including their Danish tradition of dancing around the Christmas tree at Christmas – always at Donna’s house. Donna has a good sense of humor and a high tolerance level, as evidenced by her long marriage to her mischievous late husband, Gene, whom we all miss. We are lucky to have this angel among us – be sure to tell her how much you appreciate her! Thank you, Donna! We appreciate you!

Book Club

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

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



Pancakes and Palms on April 2nd!

Last year we held a pancake and sausage breakfast on Palm Sunday to raise money for the chapel at the new Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center. It was such a smashing success that we decided to do it again! Come on Sunday and feast on your favorites, share fellowship, see some of the progress at Missouri Slope, and chat with some of their leadership staff! Come hungry! We will serve from 11 am til 1 pm.

Your Ministry Endowment Fund and Legacy Planning



Giving Without Cash

It used to be that dropping some cash or a check in the offering plate during worship was the main way you expressed your gratitude to God and contributed to the ongoing financial needs of our congregation. But today cash has become a rare thing. Hand-written checks are even more rare. Instead, you may do some sort of electronic fund transfer to make your offering. It's still a cash gift. The only thing that has changed is how the funds get to the church. But is there another way? Is it possible to give without using cash of any kind, especially when "cash is tight"?

If not cash, then what?

Actually, there are several ways you may be able to give a meaningful gift, above and beyond contributing to the general fund, without dipping into your cash reserves. You may be able to give, even when cash is short, to assure that desperately needed ministry continues to happen. You may be able to do something now to assure that the LCC you love and depend on will still be here for generations to come.

Gifts of Assets

"Assets" is just another word for *stuff*. We all have *stuff*. In fact, most of us have too much *stuff*. Some of that *stuff* has real value. If we give some of our excess *stuff* to the church, the church may be able to turn that *stuff* into the cash it needs to fund the work of the ministry.

Gifts of Appreciated Assets

Some *stuff* gets better (or more valuable) with age. If you have stocks, bonds or other securities that have grown in value you may be able to gift them directly to the LCC Endowment Fund. In doing so you may even avoid paying some taxes.

Gifts of Depreciated Assets

Some *stuff* (especially *BIG stuff* like tractors, trucks, equipment, machinery or buildings) we use in business or on the farm can be depreciated over time. When we no longer need that *stuff* and it still has real cash value it can be gifted directly to the LCC Endowment Fund. Here again you may avoid some taxes in the process.

Final Gifts – Leftover Stuff

At some point, especially when your life on this earth is over, you will likely still have a lot of *stuff* left over. That *leftover stuff* must go somewhere. Your will, trust and/or beneficiary designations are part of a plan to distribute this leftover *stuff* to family, friends, and the world. If you haven't included your church in those plans, we would encourage you to think about it. You've loved and supported the church your whole life. Why should this final gift be any different?

We should add here that some stuff is easier to sell than other stuff, so check with your Endowment Committee and see if they would be willing to accept a gift of some of your stuff. If you'd like to chat with someone about how you might organize your stuff into a gift with the biggest possible impact, we'd be happy to have that conversation with you.

May God continue to bless you and this congregation,

Ken Will, Chairperson...226-5670 kenwill@bektel.com

Kerry Carpenter 400-6000 kerry@bis.midco.net

Pastor Lisa Ahlness 220-9011 lisaahlness@hotmail.com

Alex Spilman 934-1055 Alexander.j.spilman@gmail.com

Art Wheeler, Financial Secretary...527-9582 afwheeler@peoplepc.com

Rita Staloch, Recording Secretary...230-9057 Rita_staloch@yahoo.com

Cherie Krueger 226-7514 cheriekrueger@gmail.com

Join in the fun!

With Deacon Janie gone, Pastor Lisa is wondering if any of you (ideally a few people!) would like to do an occasional children's message? She will share with you the scriptures and themes of the week, should you choose to talk about them. Or, you can do something on a general theme of your choosing. Speak to Pr. Lisa if you are interested!

Thanks! Thanks!! Thanks!!!

for honoring others in your gifts to Heat the Church.

for posting your prayers on the prayer wall and for lifting these prayers to God. And to the prayer chain, our constant prayer warriors.

for your participation in both Lenten altar focuses: our m&m tubes filled with money to help our sister church in the Central African Republic and the new opportunity to provide help for those facing devastation after natural disaster (the tornado in Mississippi).

for sponsoring flowers for the Resurrection Garden to beautify our altar space for Easter

A light blue background with white snowflakes of various sizes and designs scattered throughout. The text "Heat the Church" is centered in a white, sans-serif font. Below the title, a list of names is written in a white, sans-serif font. The names are: Lisa Ahlness & Van Vechten Crane, Roger & Esther Anderson, Myrtice and John Behan, Donna Belisle, Kylie & Baron Blanchard, Sarah & Brian Dahl, Janet & John Doerner, Sally & Terry Grenz, Rich & Judi Fockler, Mike & Tracy Geiermann, Shirley Grondahl, Patty and Jerry Hanson, Bruce & Peggy Hetland, Marjo & Jim Hewitson, Sheila & Josh Hocker, Daryl Hodnefield, Lyndsey Hoffer, Doug & Deanna Johnson, Diane Klein, Kay Koch, Jean & John Kraft, Sondra Krogstad, Cherie & Roger Krueger, Mark & Valerie Kunze, Lyle & Mary Laub, Scot & Melissa Long, Shiela & Arvid Mugaas, Cheryl & Steve Neu, Mavis Pommerer, Diane & Jay Rath, LorRaine Riveland, Norlyn & Patsy Schmidt, Suzanne & Joe Toso, Luke & Kacy Toso, Art Wheeler, Shirley & Bill Zinsli. In the bottom left corner, the word "rawpixel" is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font.

Heat the Church

Thank you to all who have participated in the Heat the Church program again this year by recognizing loved ones birthdays, anniversaries and other special events. We appreciate your generosity. Lisa Ahlness & Van Vechten Crane, Roger & Esther Anderson, Myrtice and John Behan, Donna Belisle, Kylie & Baron Blanchard, Sarah & Brian Dahl, Janet & John Doerner, Sally & Terry Grenz, Rich & Judi Fockler, Mike & Tracy Geiermann, Shirley Grondahl, Patty and Jerry Hanson, Bruce & Peggy Hetland, Marjo & Jim Hewitson, Sheila & Josh Hocker, Daryl Hodnefield, Lyndsey Hoffer, Doug & Deanna Johnson, Diane Klein, Kay Koch, Jean & John Kraft, Sondra Krogstad, Cherie & Roger Krueger, Mark & Valerie Kunze, Lyle & Mary Laub, Scot & Melissa Long, Shiela & Arvid Mugaas, Cheryl & Steve Neu, Mavis Pommerer, Diane & Jay Rath, LorRaine Riveland, Norlyn & Patsy Schmidt, Suzanne & Joe Toso, Luke & Kacy Toso, Art Wheeler, Shirley & Bill Zinsli.

Theology on Tap

Join in on conversations you don't always have over a beer (or any beverage of your choice). We will meet at the Walrus on Thursday, April 20 at 7 pm.

Women's Retreat

Would you like to "get away from it all" and have a little time for spiritual growth? Join other LCC women (friends are welcome!) on a quick retreat after Easter at Camp of the Cross on Friday/Saturday, April 14th/15th. Come for the overnight or just for the day on Saturday.

Our leader will be Deacon Beth Anderson, whom you may know from her years in the synod office. She now works as a spiritual coach and is a terrific workshop leader. Here's what she says about our theme, "**Our Road and the Road to Emmaus**": *We'll explore the story of Jesus' post-Easter appearance to disciples along the road to Emmaus and spend time together creating a road map of our own faith journeys complete with waymarks, detours, and scenic overlooks along the way. During the second session we'll spend time thinking about the unfinished road ahead and how our faith informs what's important to us, what we have yet to do and the legacies we hope to leave behind.* Questions? Speak to Sally Grenz or Pastor Lisa.

Church School and Confirmation Calendar

No confirmation or church school on Wednesday, April 5 (Holy Week) or Sunday, April 9 (Easter Sunday). We will be in session all other Sundays and Wednesdays! See you then!

Feedback Wanted re: Director of Discipleship (Janie's former position)

There are paper half-sheets that you can fill out and turn in to the office or Pastor Lisa's mailbox, as well as poster sheets on a table in the narthex that you can write suggestions on. The questions ask about three areas: what do you see as the priorities for this position, what qualities would you like to see in a candidate for this position, and what events/activities would you like to see (these can be tried and true or brand new creative ideas)? You can also call or email us with your feedback if you prefer.

The job description will be revised immediately after Easter, so do tell us your thoughts soon!

Is It Summer Yet?!

What a nice dream that is! But we can dream together with Deacon Janie Hague and Sam Wolf from Camp of the Cross in worship on Sunday, April 16th and Wednesday, April 19th. They will update us on camp and give us a foretaste of the summer to come!

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 2, 10am – Palms with Pancakes Breakfast
11-1pm

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7pm service with First Communion

Good Friday, April 7, Office closed 7pm Tenebrae Service

Ecumenical Easter Vigil with communion, Saturday, April 8,
7pm at St. George's Episcopal Church

Easter Sunday, April 9, 8am and 10am;
light brunch between services
No church school



HOLY WEEK

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April 2023	Altar Focus: CAR & LDR					1 Men's Bible Study 10am
2 Palm Sunday 9:15am Church School 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Palms and Pancake Breakfast	3 Needlework Group 9:00am	4 Staff Meeting 10am	5 No worship activities	6 Quilting 1pm Maudy Thurs- day 7pm 7:30pm AA Mtg.	7 Office Closed Good Friday NO Wired Word Tenebrae Ser- vice 7pm	8 Men's Bible Study 10am Easter Vigil 7pm St. George's
9 Easter Sunday 9:15 Church School 8:00 Early Service Light Brunch 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	10 Office Closed	11 Staff Meeting 10am	12 Book Club 1:30 Worship Service 6:15pm Church School / Confir- mation 7pm	13 Quilting 1pm Church Council 6:30pm 7:30pm AA Mtg.	14 Wired Word 1:30pm	15 Men's Bible Study 10am
16 9:15 Church School 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	17 Needlework Group 9:00am	18 Staff Meeting 10am	19 Supper 5:15pm Worship Service 6:15pm Church School / Confirmation 7pm	20 Quilting 1pm Theology on Tap 7pm Walrus 7:30pm AA Mtg.	21 Wired Word 1:30pm	22 Men's Bible Study 10am
23 9:15 Church School 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Hour	24 Needlework Group 9:00am Knitting 4 Others 1 pm 31 Needlework 9 am	25 Staff Meeting 10am	26 Women's Bible Study 9:00am Supper 5:15pm Worship Service 6:15pm Church School / Confirmation 7pm	27 Gather Bible Study 10:30am Quilting 1pm 7:30pm AA Mtg.	28 Wired Word 1:30pm	29



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E-News

Worship Times:

Wednesday Worship
6:15pm (School year)

Sunday Worship
The River Service
10:00am

Lisa Ahlness, Pastor

Office Hours:

M -TH 8-4pm

Fri. 8-noon School Year

Summer Hours 8—noon

Mon.—Fri

Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts