



The Cross Word May 2023

From Pastor Lisa

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43:18-19

Spring is in the air, finally. Hallelujah! It is a time of change: the seasons are changing, new life is springing forth. Graduations are happening and graduates are about to do new things. People move to new jobs, new places, new beginnings. Deacon Janie has moved on and LCC is in a time of transition, also.

Change is something that continually happens. Sometimes we don't like it, because we've maybe just gotten to a place where everything is clicking, everything is going well. And then change happens - though hopefully not another pandemic anytime soon! - and we are suddenly "doing a new thing."

In Isaiah 43, God is promising Israel that just as he has delivered them in the past, he will deliver them from every danger in the future. Change will happen – when we like the status quo and don't want it to come, and when we welcome it. Change is not necessarily a bad thing; it can be a good thing! And the very best way to whirl along with it is to remember God's promise here and in so many places in the Bible: God is with us, no matter what.

I thought you would appreciate an update on where we are in finding a new Director of Discipleship (which is what Deacon Janie's position is called). The LCC Council has decided that, to start with, they would like to pursue a rostered minister: a deacon or a pastor, rather than also putting the job description out there to universities and Job Service. That means we are entering the call process, which is somewhat different than simple hiring.

Council is in the process of appointing a Call Committee, which, according to our constitution, will have six members. Because the person who fills this position will be working with youth, we will have a high school age member on the committee. The others will be chosen to balance gender, age, representation of activities in the church, etc. Thanks to those of you who have indicated a willingness to serve. If you haven't let us know, please do that, promptly. Contact me or president Mike Humann. We are also developing a Ministry Site Profile, describing the congregation and our city and area, which is then shared with candidates. The job description is just about finalized. Once the paperwork is finished, it will be submitted and hopefully there are candidates that our call committee will be able to consider and interview.

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This process can take a while, often a year, sometimes even more. Please pray for the call committee (whose names will be made available to you once they are appointed) and the council, as they navigate the call process. If you would like to help with youth activities once in a while, or join the teaching team for church school next year, we welcome your involvement – a little or a lot, it's up to you. Please let me know or speak to someone on the education team: Janet Bassingthwaite, Tom Harris, Kathryn Spilman, and Sarah Dahl.

If you know or come to know of a pastor or deacon who might be a fit for us, you can pass the name to me or directly to Pr. Brad Dokken in the synod office: 701-223-5312. And if you have questions, by all means, do ask the council president or me. We will do our best to keep you informed along the way!

Peace to you and blessings this spring!

Pastor Lisa

Angels Among Us

Our angels this month are Eve and Jamison Kath! Eve grew up mostly in Bismarck - Pastor Lisa has known her since she was little through a previous congregation. Eve is also related to the Harris family. We are grateful for church and family connections! She is a fifth grade teacher at Roosevelt Elementary School. Jamison grew up mostly in the Fargo area. He is an engineer specializing in airports, and has worked on projects around the state. Be sure to fly into Dickinson sometime and appreciate his work! Eve and Jamison got married in the first year of the pandemic, when numbers of people allowed in the sanctuary were very limited. They flexibly moved their wedding to her parents' backyard in south Bismarck, and it was a beautiful event. Meanwhile, they have added young miss Ada to their family. Eve is such an asset to our worship team – we are grateful for her beautiful piano playing and knowledge of music. (She has also played French Horn in the community band in her “free” time!) The couple also enjoy riding motorcycles. Jamison watches over Ada so Eve can play for us, and has also been a confirmation mentor. As Eve is expecting their second child in the fall, she will be stepping back from teaching and from playing for worship for a while. We are glad for Eve to have this time for their little ones – but we still want to say thank you to both of them for all they do!

Book Club

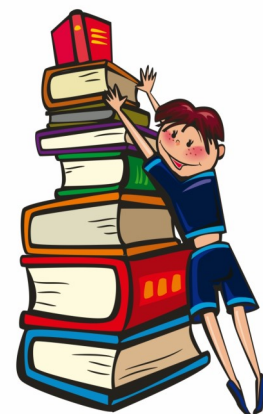
Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 1:30 in the Library.

May: Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson

June: We are the Light by Matthew Quick

July: So Long Chester Wheeler by Catherine Ryan Hyde

August: The Prayer Box by Lisa Wingate





Hello LCC Members,

The first quarter of this year has indicated that total income was substantially less than what the 2023 Adopted Budget called for. This year's budget is less than last year. Income was nearly \$33,000 less than anticipated. This fact has not caused any emergencies for our Church. But it has caused Council to use this means to remind our membership of the need for continual contributions.

So, the Council has decided to send Giving Statements for the period Jan. 1 to April 16 to help members keep up to date on needed regular Church contributions. How often the Council will decide to provide members with the individual reviews may depend on contribution history over the next 90 days.

Historically, the three summer months are times when members are on vacation, traveling, or otherwise engaged and contributions lag. There are many ways to maintain a level of giving to the Church. Sunday and Wednesday service contributions remain the most popular. The Vanco electronic giving capability on the Church's website is an easy way to contribute. Anyone having a problem using electronic means may contact either one of us. But the main objective is that contributions will continue, or increase, during the next three months. Our members who listen to services via streaming should also be continuous contributors to the Church.

The Council has been very diligent in keeping expenses within budget. At the present time, expenses are about \$41,800 less than the adopted budget projected. There will also be an expense saving of approximately \$4,400 each month the staff position is vacant. The General Operating Fund for the Church has kept fairly steady due to 2021 and 2022 General Fund carryovers. But if the Adopted Budget is not met, the Fund carryovers will decrease during this year.

A recent roof leak caused a failure in the fire detection system near the dishwashing room. Repairs to make the system functional as required by the fire code will cost about \$5,900. There are 84 bulbs and 36 flood lights in the Sanctuary. They are all incandescent bulbs. Replacements are not available. Eventually all the sanctuary light bulbs will have to be replaced with LED's and new upgrades to the lighting panel. We do not have an estimated cost for the replacement yet.

So, please review your most recent Giving Statement. If your contributions have only been occasional, or not on a regular basis, please consider using some type of regular schedule for your personal contribution to the Church's work. If the Adopted Budget can be met, more funds can be used for community projects and new programs within "our Church."

Mike Humann
Council President

Art Wheeler
Treasurer

Legacy: Living and Leaving a Life with Meaning

One of the universal desires we all have is that our life should be lived with meaning and purpose. We want to live in such a way that makes a positive impact on the world around us and on the lives of those we love. And, with some careful planning, we hope to leave something behind when we die – something to be remembered by, something that enables our life's work to live on long after we're gone. In life, and in death, we want our imprint on the world to be a reflection of our values. That is the very definition of a Legacy.

So, what will your legacy be? What story will your life tell? Have you given any thought to it, or will you simply leave your legacy to chance? Unfortunately, most of us spend more time planning our next vacation than we do planning (and/or reviewing) our legacy.

What plans do you have in place? Do your plans include more than just a will? When did you last review your plans? Have you shared your plans with those around you who are important to you (your loved ones, the causes and institutions you support)?

That last step is perhaps the most important. Often even good, solid, legal and financial plans still fail to accomplish a person's legacy goals. Your legacy is more than just some numbers on a financial ledger or a name on the deed to a bit of land. Your legacy should be a story, and the story should tell what you are most proud of and what gave your life its deepest meaning.

Years ago, I read an article by a person who recounted his experience at the reading of the last will and testament of his recently deceased grandmother. What he expected was a typical, bland, lifeless narration that goes something like this: "I (insert the deceased person's name), being of sound mind and body do hereby bequeath the following..." which is then followed by a laundry list of cash and other assets and who they go to.

But what he heard instead was a beautiful, extremely personal and touching narration by his grandmother about her faith. She wrote about how her faith had sustained her in good times and bad. She framed her whole life, her experiences and her possessions, as purposeful and faithful. Clearly, she wanted to pass along not just possessions, but the faith that had shaped her whole life. And in so doing, she shaped how her heirs remembered her and how they received whatever possessions she left to them.

Inherited wealth and possessions may quickly fade, but an inherited faith that gives life purpose and meaning is a gift that will last a lifetime... or more! *Keith Pearson is the ELCA Foundation's Regional Gift Planner and LCC's legacy giving advisor. His services are available at no charge to those interested in leaving legacy gifts to the Lutheran Church of the Cross Ministry Endowment Fund and/or ministries of the ELCA, and other charitable causes. 612-718-4197 or keith.pearson@elca.org*

Mother The Camp—May's Altar Focus

Thank you for all the ways you support Camp of the Cross Ministries (CCM) – coming to retreats, sending your children and grandchildren to camp, work projects, supporting the pancake breakfasts, etc. Another key way you can help is to "Mother the Camp" this month by purchasing items to help keep camp running. There is something for everyone on the list, from office to food to craft items to maintenance to paper products and gas cards. All of these gifts help greatly with offsetting camp's summer costs. You make a difference in this ministry! We have many copies of the list available at church – please pick one up for the next time you go shopping. An especially needed item according to Heather, the camp cook is the cent-pull towels listed under Kitchen Supplies on Mother the Camp list. They are found only at Sam's Club

Mother the Camp continued

so if you're a member there, please consider this item! These towels are used in the Retreat Center, the Fellowship Center, and all the bathrooms at camp. You can always make a monetary donation for them to get most-needed items! Thank you!

Upcoming Altar Focus Projects

We have often looked for baby items in July and August, since we can often find nice items at rummage sales, and then school supplies in August. **We will still ask for baby items in June and July. Look for the lists in the upcoming newsletters for specifics for baby kits.** However, the stores have started having their sales on school supplies much earlier, and we will ask for school supplies in July instead of August. Watch for the list of items needed for school kits coming up as well!

Honoring Our High School Graduates

We honor seven of our own this year as they graduate from high school and move on to new adventures! Join them after worship on Sunday, May 21 or Wednesday, May 24 for some fellowship and cake. Here are their names:

Samantha Bergrud

Ava Johnson

Ashley Kindem

Rei Ogden

Parker Sagsveen

Marin Traynor

Corrina Ugland

Synod Assembly Voting Members Needed

"I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ." (Philemon 1:6)

The Western North Dakota Synod Assembly will take place June 2-4 at the Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center (formerly the Ramkota). The Synod Assembly is the annual gathering of all 163 congregations of the Western North Dakota Synod. We gather together for worship, education, celebration, and to do the business of this synod. Pre-Assembly activities will begin on Friday, June 2, 2023, and Synod Assembly opens with worship on Saturday morning and concludes with worship in the early afternoon on Sunday, June 4, 2023. Each congregation appoints voting members to the Synod Assembly based on baptized membership. We are allowed three, plus our pastor. All costs are covered, and since it's in Bismarck, you won't have to travel or stay in a hotel! **Please call the office or let Pastor Lisa know if you are interested in being a voting member.** It is an interesting, inspirational, fascinating look at the larger church at work, and fun to interact with folks from all over the synod!

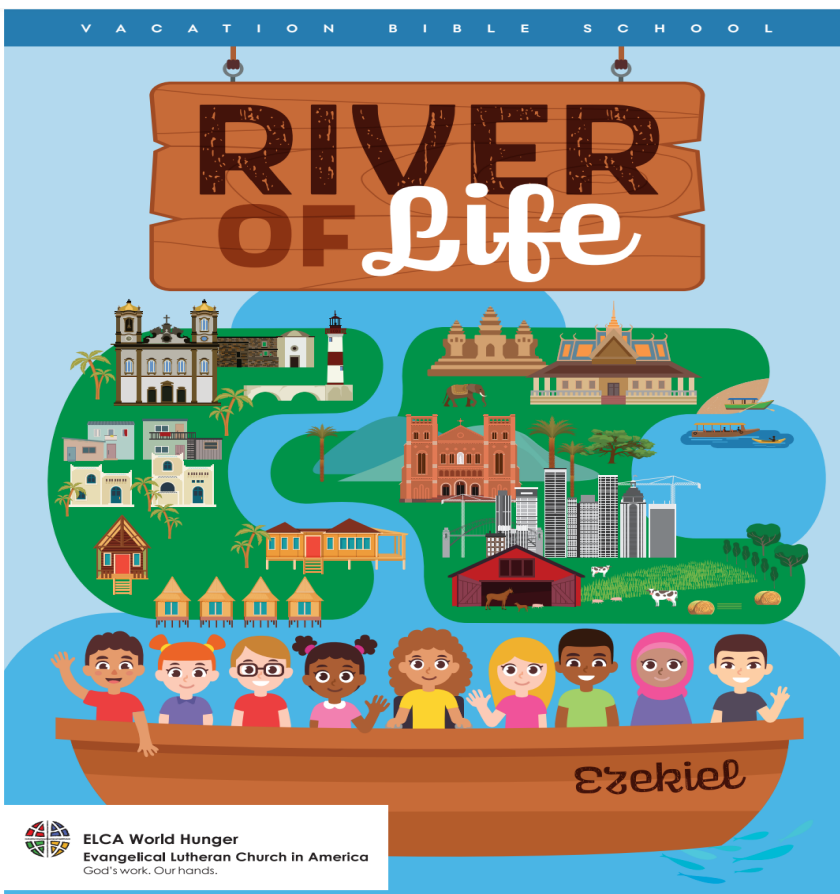
Clean Up Night May 10!

Calling all members! As part of the last night of confirmation, we always do a service project, followed by an ice cream sundae celebration. YOU ARE INVITED to join us on Wednesday, May 10th, to rake, clean up flowerbeds, pick up sticks, etc. after the long winter to ready the church's yard for spring and summer. Indoor options are also available if you have allergies or are not an outdoorsy person. Bring gloves and a rake, if you can. We will get as much done as we can, and celebrate after! Friends and neighbors are welcome.

Summer Sundays at CCM and "Chairing is Caring!"

You may know that Camp of the Cross Ministries sponsors Sunday worship at 10 am in the summer, followed by a lovely meal at 11:15. LCC is hosting the meal at the June 11 Summer Sunday worship, so mark your calendars and consider worshipping outside at camp (unless the weather is inclement; then in the fellowship center), visit the grounds and see all the upgrades, greet Deacon Janie in her new role as Executive Director at CCM, and enjoy a great meal.

Speaking of camp, the "Chairing is Caring" drive to replace all the old folding chairs in the fellowship center continues. Each chair is \$25. You can go to www.campofthecross.com, hit the red "donate today!" button, and you will see "fellowship center chairs" as the first option on the drop down menu to designate your gift. Or send a check and memo it for the chairs. Camp address is available online or at church. Thank you for all the ways you support this important ministry.



SAVE THE DATES!

We will once again partner with UCC to offer Vacation Bible School with this summer's theme being River of Life.

Dates: June 4-7

Time: 6:00-7:30 (light snack provided)

Location: UCC

Registration information will follow soon. And as always- we will need a couple volunteers to help each evening.

Stay tuned for more detailed information.

CAMP
of the  CROSS
Ministries



Lake Sakakawea, North Dakota

June 11th-August 6th

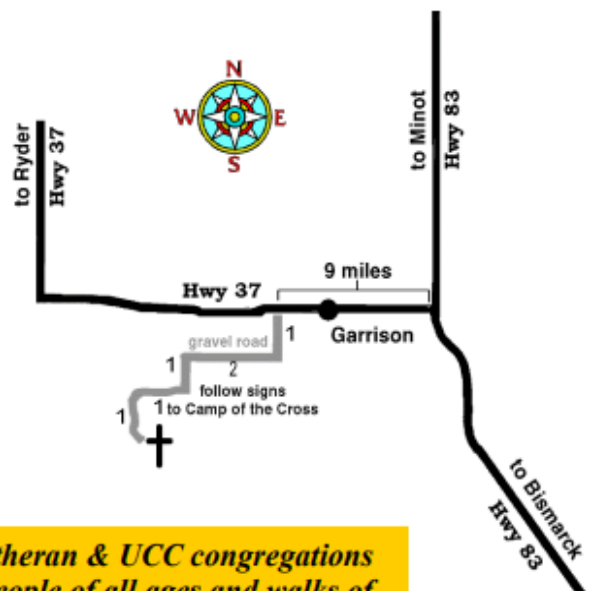
Rain or Shine!

Summer Sundays 2023

10:00am Outdoor Worship Service

11:15am Sunday Meal

*We invite you to join us
for worship this summer—if
you are traveling from afar,
have summer lake cabins,
wish to visit our camp,
or need a place to rest.
Come either by land, air, or
water. All are welcome!*



Owned and operated by a constituency comprised of Lutheran & UCC congregations in North Dakota, Camp of the Cross Ministries serves people of all ages and walks of life through its summer camping programs and year-round retreats.

1228A 47th Ave NW, Garrison, ND 58540 ♦ 701-337-2246 ♦ info@campofthecross.com

Mother the Camp 2023

Thank you for your support of CCM!

You make a difference in our ministry with your gifts!

By purchasing one or a few of these items from this list, you can help us save in what we have to purchase for the summer. We will be welcoming campers on site in early June.

This is a great way to help in lowering our costs!

God's Blessings and Happy Mother's Day!

Kitchen Supplies

Clorox Cleanup Wipes

NEW reusable food storage containers with lids

Paper Towels

Bleach

Fabric Softener

Liquid Laundry Detergent

Patriot Brand Center-Pull Paper Towels (only from SAMs Club)

Office

First Class Postage Stamps

Post Card Postage Stamps

Avery 5160 Mailing Labels

Avery Postcards 8577

Copy Paper-

White 8 1/2 x 11 (Letter)

White 8 1/2 x 14 (Legal)

Refurbished Letter Folding Machine

Garden

Flower Plants

Vegetable Plants

Seeds

Gardening Gloves

Gardening Trowels

Kitchen

Please consider purchasing #10 cans and other large quantity packages that can be found in the bulk foods section of your grocery store. We appreciate any size and can use them! Please **NO** expired dates!

Tomato Sauce, Diced Tomatoes, Peaches, Pineapple, Mandarin Oranges, Applesauce

Spaghetti Sauce, Baked Beans, Green Beans, Regular Corn

Spaghetti Noodles

Large boxes of child-friendly cereal: Coco Puffs, Rice Chex, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Rice Crispies, Lucky Charms

Gluten-Free Cereal

Walnuts, Peanuts, Cashews, etc.

Chocolate Chips and other flavored baking chips

Cupcake/Muffin Liners

Peanut Butter

Jelly: Grape and Strawberry

Condiments: Ketchup, Dill Pickles, Relish, Mild Salsa, Sugar Free Pancake Syrup

Mayo— Gallon size if possible

Ziplock bags: 1 and 2 gallon, sandwich

Paper Products: plates, napkins, soup bowls, coffee cups

Marshmallows, Graham Crackers, and Hershey bars for S'mores

Cooking Oils: Vegetable and Olive

Oatmeal

Gluten Free-noodle, pancake mixes, muffin mixes, and cookie mix

Masking Tape

Pan Spray

Food Service Gloves (hypo allergenic):

Medium and Large

Program Needs

PFD's or Life Jackets
(smaller sizes for children)

Jacobs Well

Scotch Tape
Boxes of Candy and Snacks (chips, crackers,
cookies, etc.)

Crafts

Poster Board (All Colors)
Elmer's Glue Sticks and Liquid Glue
Safety Pins
Craft Sticks
Sharpie and Crayola Markers
Construction Paper
Paint- acrylic/tempera
Paint brushes in all types and sizes
Chalk
Rubber bands for tie dying
1 Gallon Ziplock bags for tie dying
Clothes Pins
Friendship Bracelet Thread

Supplies for the Health Cabin

Please call- there are specific needs and we
don't need a large quantity

**Again, gift cards and monetary
donations are appreciated at
this time to purchase items we
need..**

Housekeeping

Heavy duty Trash bags : 55, 33, and 13 Gallon
Multipurpose Cleaner Spray
Swiffer Dusters and Floor dusters
Toilet Paper- septic safe only please!
Deodorizers (Glade gel)
Refill containers of hand wash liquid for smaller
pumps
New Single and Double Fitted Mattress Pads
White Twin Fitted Sheets
White Twin Flat Sheets
White Full Fitted Sheets
White Full Flat Sheets
Small cleaning sponges
Mr. Clean Magic Erasers
Rubber Gloves
Dyer Sheets
Washer Detergent Liquid
Clorox Wipes
Bleach
Spin Mop Replacement Mop Heads
Site
Outdoor Grounded Extension Chords
Stump Grinder
Duct Tape
Commercial Weed Eaters
Weed Eater Lines of all sizes
Brooms for Inside and Outside
Snow Shovels
Lightbulbs: 60W and 100W
Batteries: AAA and AA



May 2023

Come Celebrate a Double Church Birthday!

The Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Cameroon and Central African Republic are 100 years old this year, and we are throwing a double birthday party for them. On July 7-9, 2023, Lutherans from the United States and Canada will be gathering in the Twin Cities to mark the event, and we'd like you to be there.

It was March 8, 1923, actually, when they landed in Douala, Cameroon — Norwegian-Americans with names like Adolphus Gunderson from Stoughton, Wisconsin, his bride Marie Gunderson from Bode, Iowa, and Anne Olsen and Olette Berntsen, Lutheran deaconesses from Brooklyn. Troubled by the lack of Christian witness across a wide band of African geography known as “the Sudan,” they set out to share their faith with those who had not yet heard. After 26 days of walking bush trails and exploring places to begin their work, they settled down in a town called Mboula. Soon dozens, then hundreds, then thousands of African believers joined them, and our Lutheran World Federation companion churches in Cameroon and Central African Republic are the result.

And it all began 100 years this year. How often do you get to celebrate an event like that? This summer is the time.

We'll be arriving in the Twin Cities Friday, July 7th, and staying in the Hilton Garden Inn in Minneapolis, just across the street from Central Lutheran Church. Saturday morning we'll be bused to Luther Seminary for A Day of Song and Seminar. The five North American companion synods have invited Cameroonian church president Baïguele Jean, Central African church president Ngoe Joseph, and two women's leaders, Sodea Joëlle Kyria and Francine Grace Yaimann, to be present. You will hear them talk about current opportunities and challenges in their home churches. You will get to ponder how they do evangelical outreach so effectively in their context and wonder how we might do it better in ours. You will have a chance to be part of a missionary supper that evening before being bussed back to the Hilton. Sunday morning festal services at Central Lutheran will include ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton as preacher. And we will conclude our weekend over coffee and fellowship at Central before saying our farewells.

It's the event of a century. Again, we'd like you to be there. Two online registration sites are available: <https://sdsynod.org/sudanmissioncentennial> for general registration, and <https://sdsynod.org/glocalyouth2023> for a unique program for youth. Check them out. And welcome!

Pastor Mark Nygard, retired ELCA missionary on behalf of the organizing committee

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 2023 Altar Focus: Mother the Camp	1 Needlework Group 9am	2 Staff Meeting 10am	3 5:15 pm Supper 6:15pm Worship 7pm Confirmation Church School	4 7:30pm AA Mtg	5 Wired Word 1:30pm Mock In 6-10pm @ Trinity Gr 5-9	6 Men's Bible Study 10am
7 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee	8 Needlework Group 9am	9 Staff Meeting 10am	10 5:15 pm Supper 6:15pm Worship 7pm Confirmation Ser- vice Project Church Families too	11 6:30 pm Church Council 7:30pm AA Mtg	12 Wired Word 1:30pm	13 Men's Bible Study 10am
14 10:00 River Worship Mother's Day 11:00 Coffee Hour	15 Needlework Group 9am	16 Staff Meeting 10am	17 5:15 pm Supper 6:15pm Worship 7pm Confirmation 8th graders only	18 <i>Theology on</i> <i>Tap 7pm Old 10</i> <i>on Washington</i> <i>St.</i> 7:30pm AA Mtg	19 Wired Word 1:30pm	20 Men's Bible Study 10am
21 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour Senior Sunday: Honoring Grads	22 Needlework Group 9am Knitting 4 Others 1pm	23 Staff Meeting 10am	24 Women's Bible Study 9:00am 5:15 pm Supper 6:15pm Worship 7pm Honoring Grads	25 Gather Bible Study 10:30am 7:30pm AA Mtg.	26 Wired Word 1:30pm	27 Men's Bible Study 10am
28 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Hour	29 Memorial Day Office closed	30 Staff Meeting 10am	31			



1004 E Highland Acres Rd
Bismarck ND 58501

701.223.1001
churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

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