



I See You, by Deb Carpenter (guest contributor)

In Ozan Varol's wonderful book "Awaken Your Genius", there is a section called "I See You". He recounts that the word Sawubona* is a typical Zulu greeting, but it is much fuller than a mere hello.(1) The literal translation is "I see you". It means that "I see your personality. I see your humanity. I see your dignity." (2,3) More than that, it acknowledges that you exist and matter because you are uniquely you. Varol goes on to say:

"You can't be reduced to a label, an identity, or a tribe. You are a memory to someone. You're a living, breathing, imperfect human being who has experienced joy and suffering, triumph and despair, and love and grief."(4)

The Zulu response is Ngikhona, which is translated to mean "I am here". Again, the meaning is richer than the words can convey, because it includes the affirmation that tells the greeter you have felt seen and understood, and that "your personal dignity has been recognized." (5). Both the greeter and the responder are approaching each other with curiosity, respect, and willingness to engage the other's perspective, even when they don't agree with it, and are resisting the urge to put labels on others or sort them into categories, political parties, or group identities instead of treating them as beautiful individuals who hold the Spirit of God within. As Varol sums up, "it means choosing to see in a world that has stopped seeing." (6)

So what does this mean for us? We are blessed to know that Christ is the light of the world, and it is only through His light that we can truly "see" each other, as we truly are, and only in His light can our darkness be conquered. It is only His love that enables us to truly love the Christ in each of us. May we learn to say Sawubona!

*And no, I don't have a clue how to pronounce this or the response!

1. Susan David, "The Gift and Power of Emotional Courage", TEDWomen, November 2017.
2. "Awaken Your Genius", Ozan Varol, PublicAffairs, 2023, page 32.
3. Glen Pearson, "African Famine: 'I See You,'" HuffPost Canada, August 9, 2011.
4. Varol, page 32.
5. Ibid.
6. Varol, page 33.

Did You Know...

That because of health care privacy laws we cannot know if you or your loved one is hospitalized unless someone tells us. Please do help us know if someone needs or would appreciate pastoral care. Thank you!

You will find the Sunday bulletin on the website as well the CrossWord newsletter. Scroll down through the archives to find those of previous weeks/months.

You can give to Lutheran Church of the Cross simply by texting!

Get started: Enter LCC's give-by-text number – 701-969-7030 – and text the amount you wish to give to that number. For example, text 25 to the number above for a \$25 donation.

Register: You will receive a registration link (the first time only). Click the link and enter your contact and payment information. Note: this will not be a charge that goes on your phone bill, as you might be familiar with if you remember giving to disaster funds, say. For this text giving, you enter a credit or debit card number, and this is what the donation is charged to.

Give: After registration is complete, you'll receive a verification text as well as a receipt via email (which you will have entered with your contact information).

Repeat: If you want to make the gift a recurring one, text the word repeat and it will process automatically annually, quarterly, monthly or weekly, as you choose.

New Cross-shaped Seating Area Out Front!

Thank you to Paul and Brett Gurholt for the design; Kurt DeGree for finding the beautiful wood; these men as well as John Kraft, Mike Humann and Rod Sargent for the hard work in putting it all together; and to the Bain family for the donation which made this beautiful seating area possible. We look forward to soon adding a Little Free Library, and hopefully someday a shade over it, too. Thank you all.

Gift from LaVonne Hultin's Family

We will be remembering LaVonne at her memorial service on June 1st. LaVonne loved music, and her family has donated some sheet music that you other musicians, or friends or family who are, may be interested in. Look for the table near the library with these items that are free for you to take and use. Thank you, Hultins, for blessing others with these gifts!

Book Club

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

June: We are the Light by Matthew Quick

July: So Long Chester Wheeler by Catherine Ryan Hyde

August: The Prayer Box by Lisa Wingate

Lutheran College Scholarships

If one of your family members is attending an ELCA college this next year, please contact Pastor Lisa for a simple application for our Lutheran College Scholarship. These congregational scholarships will be matched by any ELCA college. Don't miss this opportunity! Applications due July 15.



June Altar Focus: LWR Baby Care Kits

SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- Please include sizes between 6 and 24 months. Varying the sizes of the clothing items included will make the Baby Care Kit useful as the baby grows.
- Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted from leftover yarn, or made from heavy double knits. Select a pattern that suits your skill level. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front.
- Diapers can be made from flannel or even by recycling t-shirts. Download a Diaper Tip Sheet from our website.
- If knitting or crocheting receiving blankets, including one knitted/crocheted blanket and one flannel blanket will provide maximum versatility.
- Onesies can be cut and hemmed or serged to make a simple t-shirt.
- Gowns, rompers or top/pants sets can be substituted for sleepers.
- Gently used, clean clothing and blankets (no stains or tears) may be substituted for new ones. It is especially important that the items be in excellent condition, as used clothing is increasingly difficult to get through customs in many countries. Even one item that looks worn or stained to local officials can jeopardize the status of a whole shipment. All other items (diapers, towel, soap) in the kit must be new.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH BABY CARE KIT

TWO lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies ®)

TWO long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)

TWO receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square

FOUR cloth diapers, flat fold preferred

ONE jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap

TWO pairs of socks

ONE hand towel, dark color recommended

TWO or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars

TWO diaper pins or large safety pins

Note: We will announce a day later in the summer when we will be assembling the baby care kits. Come and join in if you can.

More Opportunities to Help This Summer

There are now clipboards with the summer Sunday dates listed for you to sign up to bring treats and serve coffee (always fun to do with a friend or as a family), and to run the dishwasher. We all enjoy the fellowship after worship so much. If a date works for you, sign up! With a variety of people joining in, the work doesn't fall on the same few all the time – and it's fun! (PS the dishwasher is easy, and a quick training by one of our many experts will have you delighting in your new skill in no time!) Look for the clipboards on the table with the coffeepots on it.

Summer Picnics and Outdoor Worship

The second Wednesday of each month this summer, we will gather for a picnic and brief outdoor worship. We will grill hamburgers, hotdogs, and chicken breasts, and provide paper products, silverware, drinks and fixings. Bring something to share, if you can, but come and enjoy! We do have some chairs and tables, but feel free to bring your favorite chair if you like. The summer Wednesdays will be June 14th, July 12th, and August 9th. Mark your calendars now! We will plan for food to be ready at 5:30 and worship at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Welcome New Members on June 11!

We hope you can join us on Sunday, June 11, as we welcome these new members to LCC: John and Charmaine Wehmhoefer, Lynn and Marlene Grabow, and Larry and MariLynn Herman. Please greet them and invite them to join in your favorite activities at church!

Men's Bible Study and Wired Word to Continue

These Bible studies will continue through the summer, while our Gather Bible Study and Theology on Tap take a break for the summer months. Men's Bible Study meets at 10 a.m. on Saturdays, and the Wired Word meets Friday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. in the conference room. You are welcome to join in! No preparation necessary. The Men's Bible Study looks at the lectionary scripture passages, or just the Gospel, for the week – the same ones we'll hear in worship the next day. (copies are provided) The Wired Word is a study based on current events – the team that prepares it takes a topic from world news and offers pertinent Bible passages and challenging questions. It is sent out online on Thursdays, and forwarded then by Pastor Lisa to a list of participants. Then we meet on Fridays at church for conversation on the topics (and sometimes beyond). If you would be interested to see these studies, even if you're unable to make the Friday conversation, let Pastor Lisa know.

CAMP
of the  CROSS
Ministries



Lake Sakakawea, North Dakota

June 18th is LCC's sponsored
day of worship and meal. See
you there!

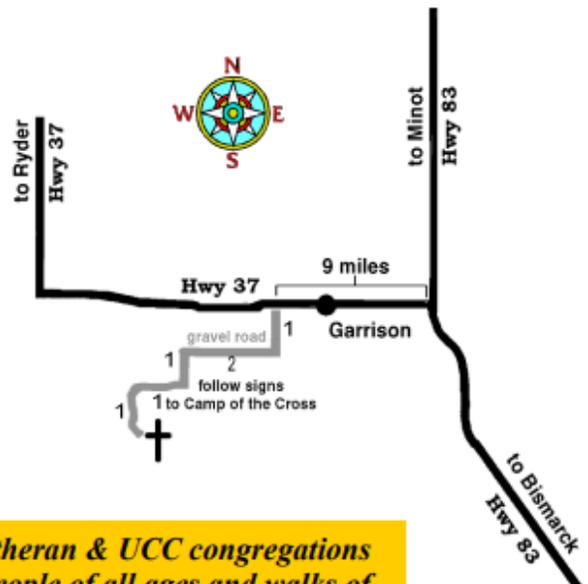


Summer Sundays 2023

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

Inviting Generosity!

So much has been written by and for fundraisers about “the ask.” There is a bit of overhyped mythology around asking someone for a gift or gift commitment.

First, let’s review how we get to the “ask,” what I prefer to call the “invitation.”

The first step is that we must identify who we are inviting to be generous. In the congregational context, that’s pretty easy—it’s our members (or act-like members). Next, we want to inform these prospective donors what we are raising money for: replacing the roof? The parking lot? A new Bible study curriculum? The third—and I would argue most important—step is to inspire our prospective donors by linking the request to a vision of enhanced ministry. Tell the story of how someone’s life will be changed for the better as a result of a donor’s generosity.

Finally, it is time to invite that generosity. Your first job is to listen to the donor. What are they passionate about? Is this a project or ministry that they would be excited to support?

If you are inviting a major gift, a challenge gift, or a lead gift for a campaign, it is important to meet the prospective donor (and their spouse) in person. Use a case statement to inform and inspire them. Then share a proposal which invites them to prayerfully consider a specific gift or a specific range of gifts:

“...would you prayerfully consider a gift of \$10,000?”

As you read that out loud, pause afterwards to let them consider your request. Let the donor break the silence.

Here’s the most important thing to remember: your job is not to get a “yes.” It is, rather, to get a decision. We are not selling them anything, we are inviting them to be a part of something important.

As Henri Nouwen in his book “A Spirituality of Fundraising” writes, “We do not need to worry about the money. Rather, we need to worry about whether, through the invitation we offer the donor and the relationship we develop with them, they will come closer to God.”

Don’t forget that you are not alone in this endeavor. My partner Pete Reuss and I are available for you to call, Zoom, email or text with questions or to simply talk through a visit with a donor in your congregation. Our contact information is on the ND Synod website under “staff.”

Go forth and invite generosity! It is life changing for the donor AND for your ministry.

Paul Marsh, GSB Fundraising Synod Partner

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 2023				1 7:30pm AA Mtg	2 Wired Word 1:30pm	3 Men's Bible Study 10am
Altar Focus: LWR Baby Care Kits						
4 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee VBS @ UCC 6-7:30pm	5 Needlework Group 9am VBS @ UCC 6- 7:30pm	6 Staff Meeting 10am VBS @ UCC 6- 7:30pm	7	8 6:30 pm Church Council 7:30pm AA Mtg	9 Wired Word 1:30pm	10 Men's Bible Study 10am
11 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	12 Needlework Group 9am	13 Staff Meeting 10am	14 Potluck Picnic and Worship 5:30/6pm	15 7:30pm AA Mtg	16 Wired Word 1:30pm	17 Men's Bible Study 10am
18 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour LCC Sponsored Worship & Meal @ COC	19 Needlework Group 9am	20 Staff Meeting 10am	21	22 7:30pm AA Mtg.	23 Wired Word 1:30pm	24 Men's Bible Study 10am
25 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Hour	26 Knitting 4 Others 1pm	27 Staff Meeting 10am	28 Women's Bible Study 9am	29 7:30pm AA Mtg.	30 Wired Word 1:30pm	



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