



## The Cross Word July 2023

From Pastor Lisa

***And the Word became flesh and lived among us... John 1:14***

Not surprisingly, I've been thinking back on funerals. We've just experienced losing seven of our church family members in six weeks – two of them a couple, two others founding members of our congregation. We are reeling from all this loss. Maybe it's that, I'm not sure - but this verse speaks to me strongly today. At funerals we tend to have a tough time saying goodbye to one we've loved. We bury their body...and that's hard. For that's how we know everyone we've ever known - in their body. (Sure, there are famous people we've only learned about; still, that learning is usually accompanied by pictures or paintings or drawings of them.)

How would we know each other without our bodies? Maybe God knew the difficulty here. And so, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" - as one of us, in the flesh. The first Christians came to know God's Word in the body and person of Jesus.

Actually, I think we all have a great need for such concreteness. Some of us are lucky to have been brought up in the church, hearing God's word in lessons and scripture and song. Even so, we are more likely to "get it" if God's love is lived out and modeled by God's people, around us, in the flesh. And if we have never had a faith tradition, then we really need to see God's Word as well as hear it!

May I say, as I reflect on the past few weeks, that I am glad to be a part of this congregation. You, each and all, take the calling to live God's Word, to embody it for others, seriously. We've had a hard time letting go of some saints this year, as we have other recent years, in part because they have modeled that for us. There's a lot going on here at church - and through our members, beyond LCC - all of it inspired by, reflecting, and pointing to God.

Thank you for that. Thank you for your prayers, kindness, generosity and thoughtfulness to one another, and to the community and wider world. I am glad to serve God among you. May God use each of us, our bodies and all our capabilities, as instruments of God's love. May we continue to learn and grow in Christ, and may we then go as Christ into the world.

Peace!  
Pastor Lisa Ahlness

***The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:5***

## **July Altar Focus: LWR Baby Care Kits & School Care Kits 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

### **School Care Kits**

4 70 sheet notebooks

5 unsharpened #2 pencils w/erasers

1 16 or 24 crayons

5 black or blue ballpoint pens

1 pencil sharpener

1 2 1/2 eraser

1 12 inch ruler

1 blunt scissors

1 drawstring backpack 14" x 17". No standard backpacks please.

### **Outdoor Picnic/Worship July 12!**

Come one, come all to our next picnic and outdoor worship, set for Wednesday, July 12. Food will be ready about 5:15, and we'll start our brief worship service at 6:30 pm. We welcome Adult and Teen Challenge to share some music and some of their stories. You will be inspired. Because there are about 30 of them coming, we recommend bringing a chair if you have one so that we can accommodate everyone. Side dishes and desserts, set up and tear down help also always welcome! We will grill meat and provide buns, paper products and beverages. The weather looks to be lovely!

### **Angels Among Us**

Let's give a shout out this month to these angels among us: the faith and care group for May and June, coordinated by Peggy and Bruce Hetland and Tracy and Mike Geermann. Thanks also to the many of you who stepped up to help, as they graciously served so many funerals. Your compassion and kindness and care for others in a difficult time is much appreciated.

### **Book Club**

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

July: So Long Chester Wheeler by Catherine Ryan Hyde

August: The Prayer Box by Lisa Wingate



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>July 2023</b> Altar Focus: LWR Baby Care Kits S and School Care Kits						<b>1</b> Men's Bible Study 10am
<b>2</b> 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	<b>3</b> Needlework Group 9am  Sweet Adelines	<b>4</b> Staff Meeting 10am	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm Church Council  7:30pm AA	<b>7</b> Wired Word 1:30pm	<b>8</b> Men's Bible Study 10am
<b>9</b> 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	<b>10</b> Needlework Group 9am  Sweet Adelines	<b>11</b> Staff Meeting 10am	<b>12</b> Book Club 1:30 Picnic and Wor- ship 5:30/6:30pm	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm Church Council 7:30pm AA Mtg	<b>14</b> Wired Word 1:30pm	<b>15</b> Men's Bible Study 10am
<b>16</b> 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	<b>17</b> Needlework Group 9am  Sweet Adelines	<b>18</b> Staff Meeting 10am	<b>19</b> Women's Bible Study 9am	<b>20</b> 7:30pm AA Mtg.	<b>21</b> Wired Word 1:30pm	<b>22</b> Men's Bible Study 10am
<b>23</b> 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Hour 30 same	<b>24</b> Needlework Group 9am 31 same	<b>25</b> Staff Meeting 10am	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:30pm AA Mtg.	<b>28</b> Wired Word 1:30pm	<b>29</b>



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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

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**