



From Ken Will

It's Been On My Mind...Telling a Story.

When Pastor Lisa asked me to guest write some comments for this Crossword, I was sure it would be easy and fast, but the more I thought about my first chosen topic (*Our LCC Mission Endowment Fund*), the more I realized there was a deeper subject matter that kept making its way to the forefront of my thoughts!

I think it all started with our trip to Israel and Jordan where I was deeply, and emotionally caught up with being where Jesus walked, preached and started His ministry. Especially poignant to me were the Garden Tomb and Gethsemane. Later, as Karen and I reflected and talked about the trip, I was drawn to reading more about His ministry. Fast forward slightly to the Western ND Synod Assembly in early June and a couple of bible studies and pre-conference presentations, the most impactful (*for me*) revolved around a book titled "You are Witnesses of These Things" by Bishop Craig Satterlee and His wife, Chelsy. It is available on Amazon and I encourage you to read it, or better yet, get a group together and use it as a study guide.

The book focuses not on growing a church but on telling the story of Jesus! Jesus, as you might recall, was a story teller. He was the master storyteller! He'd say, "Hey did you hear the one about..." and then tell a parable to teach a truth.

Shortly after the assembly, Karen and I began watching the series "The Chosen". It is absolutely excellent and I recommend it to everyone. Most recently, we've watched "The Christ Revolution". It focuses on the origins (*with the 1960's Hippie movement*) of evangelism (*the spreading of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness*) and, to date, encompasses millions of people who have found Jesus through music and by "telling His story".

Even as I write this, our 20-year-old grandniece is in the Black Hills for a two-day revival with Christian music, prayer and "story telling". The type of music has changed through the generations but the story remains the same! Similar "revivals" have been and are being held throughout the world. While attending college, she leads an "in home" bible study weekly and tells me there are many such small groups that meet regularly for bible study here in the Bismarck-Mandan area. Some are affiliated with a specific church but most don't adhere to any specific church allegiance and instead are focused on the story of Jesus and His good news.

At our July church picnic, we hosted ND Adult and Teen Challenge and heard firsthand how the Holy Spirit has intervened in the lives of these formerly addicted people as they sang and witnessed to Jesus. It was amazing witness to Jesus as they told their story!

It really is pretty simple (*but really tough for us Lutherans*) to talk to others about Jesus and especially a time (*or many times*) in our lives when the Holy Spirit was present and/or intervened. Often, I haven't recognized that intervention until years later!

I encourage you to begin talking about Jesus and "His story" to fellow Christians, friends and especially to someone who may not have found Jesus yet...Your story may feel insignificant or difficult to share at times, but the truth is: every story matters. **Your story matters!** Your story matters because you matter and it reveals God. People love to listen to stories and your story is unique. Your story matters because as you tell it, healing can follow! Step out of your comfort zone and begin telling your story! Jesus wants us to tell His story through your story!

The Episcopal Church's statement on evangelism kind of says it all: "Listen for Jesus' movement in our lives and in the world. Give thanks, proclaim and celebrate it! Invite the Holy Spirit to do the rest." What story does God want to tell through you? How is your story creating glory for God? May these thoughts bless and challenge each of us.

August Altar

Ministry on the Margins has put out an urgent call for pillows and blankets. Please bring pillows (and/or cases) to church for our August altar focus. They don't have to be brand new but should be in good shape.

Note: we will keep accepting school supplies and items for baby care kits right up til our assembly day: August 23rd.

Neighborhood Block Party August 16!

Come join in for our annual neighborhood block party on Wednesday, August 16th! We will begin with grilled hot dogs and pot luck at the UCC church at 5:30 pm. By 6:30 pm, you can walk on over to LCC for dessert, lawn games, a bounce house for kids and more visiting! Come one, come all!

If you would like to help with the block party, here are some needs:

1. bake a pan of cookies or bars for the desserts;
2. help watch kids on the bounce house for safety;
3. help deliver invitations around the neighborhood. We have a map with "our" streets to do marked out. Simply rubber band the rolled up invites to doors! Get a refreshing walk in at the same time.

Please call the office or speak to Pastor Lisa to help with any of these! Thanks!!

Want to be pen pals with a sister church in Germany?

I had a pen pal from Japan when I was about eight. That was really interesting! Well, now I'm a lot older. I recently received an email from a friend of mine from the days I lived in the old East Germany. She is a pastor, currently serving not in a parish, but as a director of refugee services in her area. She realized I live in a town called Bismarck, and also that there is a town in Germany called Bismark - and would we be open to making a connection? The town is in a rural region north of Magdeburg. Let me know if you would be interested in this project! Pastor Lisa

We need hosts and dishwashers. Sign up please!

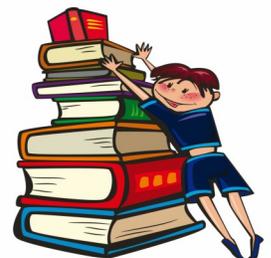
Book Club

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

August: The Prayer Box by Lisa Wingate

September: The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See

October: West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge



<p>August 2023 Altar Focus: Pillows and blankets for Ministry on the Margins. Plus school supplies</p>		<p>1 Staff Meeting 10am</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Wired Word 1:30pm</p>	<p>5 Men's Bible Study 10am</p>
<p>6 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>7 NO Needlework Group 9am Sweet Adelines</p>	<p>8 Staff Meeting 10am</p>	<p>9 Book Club 1:30 Picnic and Worship 5:30/6:30pm</p>	<p>10 6:30 pm Church Council 7:30pm AA</p>	<p>11 Wired Word 1:30pm</p>	<p>12 Men's Bible Study 10am</p>
<p>13 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>14 Needlework Group 9am Sweet Adelines</p>	<p>15 Staff Meeting 10am</p>	<p>16 Block Party with UCC 5:30 there 6:30 here</p>	<p>17 Gather Bible Study 10:30am 7:30pm AA</p>	<p>18 Wired Word 1:30pm</p>	<p>19 Men's Bible Study 10am</p>
<p>20 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>21 Needlework Group Sweet Adelines</p>	<p>22 Staff Meeting 10am</p>	<p>23Women's Bible Study 1pm Sewing and kitting up baby care kits</p>	<p>24 7:30pm AA Mtg.</p>	<p>25 Wired Word 1:30pm</p>	<p>26 Men's Bible Study 10am</p>
<p>27 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>28 Needlework Group 9am Sweet Adelines</p>	<p>29 Staff Meeting 10am</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 7:30pm AA Mtg.</p>		



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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