



From Pastor Lisa

“But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.” Luke 2:19

No, it's not nearing Christmas (please don't insist that it is, to me, just yet!), but I've been pondering some big decisions, and this verse popped into my head, for obvious reasons.

It got me thinking about pondering. The dictionary tells me this means to consider or examine attentively or deliberately; to think about (something) carefully, especially before making a decision or reaching a conclusion. This is what Mary was doing after the angel appeared to her, to tell her she would bear a child, miraculous in itself under the circumstances – and just who that child would be. We do it before making decisions or (hopefully) before taking actions.

We've probably all learned over the years to list pros and cons before making large decisions. This wasn't, of course, an option for Mary! But she did decide, based on her faith in God, to acquiesce to and live out God's plan for her.

We are unlikely to face the situation Mary did, but that doesn't mean we don't face difficult or problematic circumstances or decisions. And I hope our pondering doesn't just consist of pros and cons, but actively involves our faith in God as well! Am I being a good steward of my time, my resources, my relationships, God's creation? What is God calling me to do in this situation? What values am I honoring or modeling with this decision, and do those align with God's values?

Something to ponder, as we enter a new season soon. Blessings on your fall, on all new beginnings, and all learnings. See you in church!

Pastor Lisa

*Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, if with his love he befriend you!
(from Praise to the Lord, the Almighty – verse 3 - ELW #858)*

Upcoming Events:

Rally Day: Sunday, Sept. 10: worship with installation of teachers, followed by potluck. Wednesday, Sept. 13, worship with installation of teachers, preceded by pizza!

Blessing of the Backpacks: Sunday, Sept. 17 and Wednesday, Sept. 20. Bring yours to worship!

September Altar Focus

Heart River Bridges of Hope, which assists youth leaving the Youth Correctional Center, has a need for items for their Fresh Start Kits. These are given to each youth as they leave the facility. Please note that the need is for MEN's items, as these youth are almost all male. Needed are shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and deodorant, as well as black or gray backpacks (other colors have connections to gangs and cannot be used). The items you bring in September will help these youth get a fresh start. Thank you!

Change in Church School on Sunday – come join us for JAM!

This fall, rather than a regular class before worship on Sundays, we will invite church school age kids (preschool to grade 5) to leave worship with a teacher right after the children's message. They will learn the story for the week, which will follow the gospel passage that day, and have a brief lesson – then return to the worship service for communion and closing. We are calling this JAM – Jesus And Me. Come JAM with us on Sundays!

Church School, Wednesday, Confirmation and more!

Wednesday church school will stay the same, meeting after worship at 7 pm, although we'll meet in the classroom next to the youth room, since the conference room tends to have a lot of through traffic. Schedules for all classes will be posted on the website soon. We do follow the school calendar, so there will be some weeks with no class. Look forward to seeing you!

Confirmation will also meet Wednesdays at 7 pm, following worship. Orientation for grades 6, 7, and 8 will be Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 7 pm. The next week will be small group night, and a confirmand/mentor meeting for 9th graders, both at 7 pm. See you there!

Angels Among Us

Our angel this month is Sarah Dahl! Sarah is a calm looking, whirling dervish of an active working mom and volunteer. Mom to Graham and Vivia, Sarah also is librarian at Shiloh Christian School, working with elementary and middle school students. She serves on church council and as liaison to the education team; teaches church school; and serves on the call committee. With her husband Dr. Brian Dahl, Sarah started the Power of Play Foundation, after their daughter spent quite a bit of time at hospitals. Sarah listens carefully, comes up with creative ideas, is a terrific planner and an organizational force. Give Sarah a thank you and high five next time you see her!

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

September: The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See

October: West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge

Quilting! Quilting! Quilting! The LCC quilters are revving up again for a new year. They meet on Thursdays at 1 pm in the multipurpose room (to the left of the kitchen). No experience necessary – it is a simple system and great camaraderie and fellowship. New people are welcome to come join in! If you can stay for coffee and treats (about 2:30 pm), all the better! Our first day back is September 7!

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|-----------------------------|---|--|----------------------------|--|
| September 2023 Altar Focus: Fresh Start Kits for young males | | | | | 1 Wired Word 1:30pm | 2 Men's Bible Study 10am |
| 3 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour | 4 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED NO Needlework Group 9am Sweet Adelines | 5 Staff Meeting 10am | 6 | 7 Quilting 1p 7:30pm AA Mtg | 8 Wired Word 1:30pm | 9 Men's Bible Study 10am |
| 10 RALLY DAY 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Potluck | 11 Needlework Group 9am Sweet Adelines | 12 Staff Meeting 10am | 13 RALLY DAY Book Club 1:30pm 5:15p PIZZA 6:15p Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation | 14 Gather Study 10:30a Quilting 1p C. Council 6:30 AA Mtg 7:30p | 15 Wired Word 1:30pm | 16 Men's Bible Study 10am Wedding |
| 17 10:00 River Worship Blessing of the Backpacks 11:00 Coffee Hour | 18 Needlework Group 9am Sweet Adelines | 19 Staff Meeting 10am | 205:15p Supper 6:15p Worship BO Backpacks 7p Church School, Confirmation | 21 Quilting 1p Theology on Tap 7p Mayas 7:30pm AA | 22 Wired Word 1:30pm | 23 Men's Bible Study 10am |
| 24 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee Hour | 25 Needlework Group 9am Sweet Adelines | 26 Staff Meeting 10am | 27 Women's Bible Study 9am 5:15p Supper 6:15p Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation | 28 Quilting 1p 7:30pm AA Mtg. | 29 Wired Word 1:30pm | 30 |



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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