

**From Pastor Lisa**

Hello from vacation! I was supposed to be on a trip to the southeastern U.S., but things happened, and the trip didn't. But staycations are good, too! Perhaps my garage isn't as sparkling as I had planned after these few days away, but some things got checked off the list, and I took some time to do some things that fill me up. What are the things that bring you joy? I love to go for walks and watch as the fall changes happen. We have had such wonderful weather! And my blue hydrangea is blooming!

(a few of you know how I had hoped for this.) I like to catch up with friends.

Watching British murder mysteries is such a lark – so nonviolent, often with humor, and fun accents to boot! I find them refreshing. Cooking! I love to cook and bake, but don't always have, or take, the time.

I am grateful for time away, even when I'm not "away." I hope you can do this, too, through centering prayer or a walk to clear your head and listen to your thoughts.

Thanks be to God for all God's gifts!

**Call Process Update**

No doubt you are wondering where we are in the process of calling a new rostered minister (this term refers to all ordained ministers, pastors and deacons) to fill the position in which Deacon Janie served. The call committee was formed by the council in the late spring, after a meeting with Pr. Brad Dokken, Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy and Call. After getting up to speed on what was needed, the call committee finished the Ministry Site Profile (which describes LCC, the community and the position), which was then submitted to the ELCA database where it can be seen by any rostered minister searching for a call. The synod assists in matching ministers to open positions in their area.

The call committee had an initial zoom meeting with a candidate in late August. (This step is currently always done via zoom, even if a candidate should live close enough to come in person, to level the playing field for those from further away.) The committee felt it was a positive meeting and chose to invite the candidate for an in-person interview. This happened in late September.

Continued on next page.

## Call Process Update continued

From there, if the call committee's consensus is that this is a great candidate, they would submit the name to the council. Council then votes on the candidate, and if positive, the executive committee moves into work on the compensation offer to the candidate and schedules a congregational meeting to vote on the call.

Meanwhile, we have not received any other candidates. The one we interviewed is also interviewing in other places. As someone in the synod told me, "it's a minister's market right now." We have 30+ openings in the Western North Dakota Synod alone, and other synods have many openings, too. So there are many congregations seeking pastors.

The LCC call committee was very excited about the candidate we interviewed, and would love to submit that name to the council. However, for now, the candidate has asked us to wait, for a period of discernment.

We trust that the Holy Spirit is at work in this process! And, while we selfishly hope the Spirit has chosen this candidate for us, we will just need to wait a bit longer and see. Please continue to pray for guidance for all involved. We know God has plans for our future!

Thank you to Heather and Libby Martin for creating this beautiful fall bulletin board.



## **The Blessing of the Animals - 7 pm Wednesday, October 4**

The Day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the animals, is October 4<sup>th</sup>. Statues of the gentle friend of animals are often seen in corners of gardens or under a rose bush. A special tradition has been recovered from the pages of history, and is occurring in more and more churches across the country.

The Blessing of the Animals was extremely important in medieval Europe, where the loss of the herd could mean starvation for the village. So, the cows and horses, sheep and geese, along with dogs and cats (though probably not llamas or iguanas) were brought to the village church, so the priest could ask God's blessing on them and their caretakers.

Over the years, this ritual became associated with St. Francis, and was tied to the feast day which commemorates him. Then came the Reformation, and the settling of the New World by many Protestants who wanted freedom to worship "their way." And some of the beautiful traditions of the Euro-catholic church were lost along the way.

In our modern world, we are re-discovering the beauty and joy of having a special day to bring our animals to God, to ask for God's blessing for them and for our relationships, and to commemorate St. Francis of Assisi. I'm quite sure the gentle man would be surprised to see the clothes and collars some of our fur-children wear, but he would recognize the love we give and receive from our pets. (Thanks to Pastor Peggi Boyce for sharing the history of this tradition)

So, bring your pet to church! J Pastor Lisa (and the confirmation students, assisting) will be on the front lawn after worship on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, welcoming all who want to bring their beloved animals – cows, horses, dogs, cats, even the llamas and iguanas. Just be sure they are leashed, kenneled or controlled appropriately, so that all God's creatures can be safe. Each animal will receive a blessing, and each owner a certificate to remember it by.

## **Angels Among Us**

Kathryn and Alex Spilman have not been members of LCC for too very long, but boy did they jump in with both feet! Alex ushers, reads Scripture, washes dishes after fellowship hour and serves on our Endowment committee. He also has a beautiful singing voice that enhances worship for those around him. Kathryn is a fantastic baker and regularly hosts our coffee fellowship, as well as serving on the education team. She is working on ministries for young adults, with a couples' workshop planned for this winter. Kathryn also puts out baskets to collect scarves, hats and mittens/gloves to distribute at the public library through the winter. Besides their busy work and volunteer lives, Kathryn and Alex are very welcoming and invite others to worship with us. Thank you, angels, we appreciate all you do!

## Your LCC Mission Endowment Fund

The LCC Mission Endowment Fund was established as a permanent endowment fund, the purpose of which is to enhance the outreach and mission of LCC and to assist in specific capital or special expenses. Endowment funds are partnerships between donors and the church. Partnerships based on the idea of mutual stewardship. Endowment funds provide additional support for ministries and special projects beyond the yearly operating budget, as well as supporting the future generations of LCC. Each year, the Endowment Committee will transfer a portion of the Endowment Fund's annual earnings, as dictated by its By Laws, to identified ministries for their use.

Gifts, to the Endowment Fund, made through your contributions, wills, and estate planning process extend financial support to the Endowment Fund. If possible, please consider discussing your gifts, confidentially, with a committee member in advance so we may work with you and ensure your intentions are honored.

Your financial gifts to the Endowment Fund are placed in a professionally managed portfolio (the ELCA Ministry Growth Fund). There is no minimum amount for a gift. All gifts from members and friends of LCC support and benefit the ministry and mission of LCC. LCC and its Endowment Fund are a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

One of the "painless" ways to contribute is via an IRA Charitable Rollover. If you are 72 ½ or older, you can use the IRA charitable rollover to help the LCC Mission Endowment Fund continue its important work. The IRA charitable rollover allows you to meet your required minimum distribution (RMD) by directing your distribution to the Fund rather than taking it yourself.

North Dakota allows a Tax Credit for individuals, businesses, trusts, and estates wherein they can take advantage of a 40% state tax credit for contributions of over \$5,000 to a true endowment like LCC's Mission Endowment Fund.

We invite you to explore the charitable giving opportunities available to you. Gifts, both cash and property, may be made as outright gifts or bequests, or by naming LCC as a beneficiary of a 401(k) or IRA, a life insurance policy, or a charitable trust.

Thank you for your faithfulness! Know that your generosity empowers LCC to **"Make Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts."** Please join us on Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, following service, for a brunch hosted by the Endowment Committee. Pastor Keith Pearson, Regional Gift Planner for the ELCA, will be joining us and will be available for conversation and to answer questions.

<i>Ken Will, Chairperson...226-5670</i> <a href="mailto:kenwill@bektel.com">kenwill@bektel.com</a>	<i>Art Wheeler, Financial Secretary...527-9582</i> <a href="mailto:afwheeler@peoplepc.com">afwheeler@peoplepc.com</a>
<i>Kerry Carpenter...400-6000</i> <a href="mailto:kerry@bis.midco.net">kerry@bis.midco.net</a>	<i>Rita Staloch, Recording Secretary...230-9057</i> <a href="mailto:Rita_staloch@yahoo.com">Rita_staloch@yahoo.com</a>
<i>Pastor Lisa Ahlness...220-9011</i> <a href="mailto:lisaahlness@hotmail.com">lisaahlness@hotmail.com</a>	<i>Cherie Krueger...226-7514</i> <a href="mailto:cheriekrueger@gmail.com">cheriekrueger@gmail.com</a>
<i>Alex Spilman...934-1055</i> <a href="mailto:Alexander.j.spilman@gmail.com">Alexander.j.spilman@gmail.com</a>	

## **Sound System Update**

An upgrade to our sound system in the sanctuary has been in the works for a few years. The last few months, a dedicated team of folks has come together to implement the needed changes. Dallas Anderson, an expert with Tricorne Audio, was our advisor. He worked with a team of LCC experts in worship, production and installation: Beth Greff, Lavern Hanson, Kerry Carpenter, Tom Harris, Paul Gurholt and John Kraft. Significant gifts were given specifically for this project, which enabled the team to go ahead rather than wait for budget monies to be designated or a fundraising process to happen. We are grateful to the donors who made this sound enhancement possible!

As of this week, you will notice a livelier, clearer sound in worship. You may have noticed last week that acoustic panels have been installed on walls on three sides of the sanctuary. This is to help manage how the sound bounces around the shape of the room. Now, this week, the new digital soundboard has also been installed. In addition to being simpler for the sound techs to run, this soundboard upgrades the quality of sound in house and on the livestream. There still are some outlying things that will need to be done: stands for the new monitors; speaker upgrades. If you'd like to give toward those or sponsor a part of them, speak to Beth Greff. Meanwhile - Thank all these folks who have been involved, and let us know what you think!

## **Altar Focus for October – Closet 701**

Closet 701 is a non-profit connected to Heaven's Helpers Soup Café which allows people to come once per month and receive a certain number of clothing, personal and household items. Especially needed now are all children's wear, men's jeans (always in great demand) and outerwear, and women's outerwear. Snowmobile suits and similar welcome! Boots, shoes, and socks are also welcome and needed! Items can be used - please clean them or ask the church office if you need help with this. If you would like to learn more about this ministry or about volunteering, please connect with Barb Wilson, who is a regular volunteer there. Thank you for helping others get ready for winter!

## **Trunk or Treat!!**

Back for another fun year just a couple of days before Halloween, LCC will hold a trunk or treat in the parking lot for one magic hour, from 2-3 pm on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>! This event is always popular! Please sign up in the narthex if you are willing to decorate your car trunk and have some fun! Also needed are bags of candy and a few willing helpers to ready the hot chocolate etc – let Pastor Lisa know if you'd like to help!

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

October: West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge

November Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Consider coming to the Book Club. We have interesting and lively discussions of each book. A variety of subjects are read but usually works of fiction.

### **Bible Study opportunity with Rabbi Noah & Holly Ullman at LCC!**

Some of you have had a chance to participate in a Bible study with Noah Ullman once or twice over the last couple of years. It is an experience you won't forget! Noah, together with his wife Holly – who was the Bible study leader at the recent women's retreat at Camp of the Cross – will be here at LCC on Friday evening, October 20, for a couple hours of study together. We will be serving a light supper from 5 pm – 6 pm, for those of you who are coming from work, so you don't have to worry about food. You don't have to be here at 5 – come when you can! The study will go from 6 -8 pm, and believe me, the time flies. Set aside a couple of hours on this Friday night to take part in this terrific study. Food is free; a free will offering will be taken for the leaders, who earn their living leading studies all over the world.

### **New Member Class**

If you or someone you know are interested in joining Lutheran Church of the Cross (or learning more about it), you are welcome to come to the new member class on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, following the worship service (about 11:15). Bring your coffee/treats and join Pastor Lisa in the Sunday school room right next to the youth room – a quick right turn in the hallway, if you were entering the church through the back door from the parking lot. We'll consult everyone's schedules and set the New Member Sunday accordingly! If someone you know has been contemplating this, please invite them!

### **CHURCH DIRECTORY**

The **church directory** is out on the table in the narthex for your review. Have you removed your landline? Changed or added an email address? Moved? Had a child? If so, please add these things to your family's section. If nothing has changed just write OK, or your initials to your section and the secretary will know to keep the information as is. **Please note:** we are doing a pictorial directory!!! We are not using an outside source but will rely on the congregation to provide their own photos if able to do so. The church office would like individuals and families to submit a photo of yourself or family to the church secretary so that LCC can produce a pictorial directory online (not on LCC's website) through a secure web portal and also on paper. Please submit the jpeg photo electronically to: churchsecrary@midconetwork.com. Photos can be taken on your phone or camera. They do not need to be professionally done. Take a selfie! Ask a neighbor to be your photographer! Take the 5 minutes to get this small project done. Let's get this project started now and completed by Thanksgiving! (The secretary has already received one photo and has uploaded it into the directory!)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	2 Needlework Group 9am Sweet Adelines	3	4 5:15p Supper 6:15p Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation	5 Quilting 1p 7:30pm AA Mtg	6 Wired Word 1:30pm	7 Men's Bible Study 10am
8 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	9 Needlework Group 9am Sweet Adelines	10	11 5:15p Supper 6:15p Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation	12 Quilting 1p C. Council 6:30 7:30pm AA Mtg	13 Wired Word 1:30pm	14 Men's Bible Study 10am
15 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	16 Needlework Group 9am Sweet Adelines	17	18 Book Club 1:30pm 5:15p Supper 6:15 Worship 7p Church School, NO Confirmation	19 Gather Study 10:30a Quilting 1p Theology on Tap 7pm AA Mtg 7:30p LYO	20 Wired Word 1:30pm Supper 5-6 Bible Study LYO	21 Men's Bible Study 10am LYO
22 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour/New Member class	23 Needlework Group 9am Knitting 4 Oth- ers 1:30pm Sweet Adelines	24	25 9a Women's Bible Study 5:15p Supper 6:15p Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation	26 Quilting 1p 7:30pm AA Mtg	27 Wired Word 1:30pm	28 Men's Bible Study 10am
29 10:00 Worship Service/ Confirmation 11:00 Reception Trunk or Treat 2 -3pm	30 Needlework Group 9am Sweet Adelines	31	October 2023	Altar Focus: Closet 701: Family Winter Coats		



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**