



## The Cross Word January 2024

### **Pastor Lisa Away – emergency pastoral contact info**

Pastor Lisa was unexpectedly offered the chance to attend an “In the Footsteps of Paul” trip to Greece and Turkey and will be away January 4-January 13. In her absence, Pastor Sondra Krogstad will be preaching and leading us in worship, and will be available for pastoral needs. She can be reached at [sondra012@gmail.com](mailto:sondra012@gmail.com) or (480) 276-2711. We are lucky to have Pastor Sondra as one of our members! Thank you, Pastor.

### **Bathrooms Newly Accessible**

Thanks to a gift from Dr. Brian and Sarah Dahl, the main bathrooms have been made handicap-accessible with push button doors. We know this will be a help to many. Let the Dahls know how much this gift is appreciated.

### **Opportunities to Serve Abound!**

Lists are being organized for 2024 for many ways to serve. Barb Norby is our captain for the many worship jobs. If you would like to help by being a greeter, an usher, a scripture reader, or a communion assistant, she is the one to call. Barb’s number is 701-220-4058. These are not strenuous jobs, but are definitely important! Let us know of your willingness to serve.

If you would like to try out serving on the production team (running the projection slides, livestreaming, or assisting with the sound board, let Beth Greff know. Again, not strenuous but very important! Appropriate training is supplied. Best way to reach Beth is her email: [theriver@midconetwork.com](mailto:theriver@midconetwork.com), or let the office know.

### **Office Chairs for Giveaway**

We have wound up with two extra desk chairs and no place to keep them. Could you use one or both somewhere in your life? If so, please stop by any time the office is open to pick them up.

### **Chili Cookoff Winners!**

We had a tie for first place at our second annual chili cookoff during Advent. Kari Harris made her Grandma’s sweet chili with bacon and lima beans! It was great. And Karen Will went to a lot of work to roast beef and cut it up for a masterful new recipe as well. Kudos to them and to all the chefs who brought their favorite chilis! Lots of fun and full bellies were had by all.

## **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

If you are a Thrivent member, don't forget the opportunity you have to designate your Thrivent Choice dollars to a charity or charities of your choosing. Lutheran Church of the Cross is an option, as are others of your favorites: Missouri Slope and Camp of the Cross, for instance. These dollars need to be designated by the end of March. Call your agent if you need assistance. This giving opportunity costs you nothing but benefits the recipients greatly!

## **Artists Needed for upcoming Bulletin Boards!**

Isn't it fun to see the creativity that our various talented artists put into designing the seasonal bulletin board in the narthex? Thanks to Lillian Crook for the lighted Advent board, and to Heather and Libby Martin for the "Good News" Christmas one. Would you like to do one too? We will soon need one for Epiphany, and after that one for Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14. Let Pastor Lisa or the office know of your interest!

## **Annual Meeting After Worship Sunday, January 21**

If you lead a program or study or committee here at LCC, you are asked to write up a summary of that group for 2023. These are needed asap, but no later than January 10, as the booklet needs to be out a week before the meeting for folks to read the information. Please send them by email to [churchsecretary@midconetwork.com](mailto:churchsecretary@midconetwork.com).

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

January: The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams

February: Other Birds by Sarah Addison Allen

March: Good Night Irene by Luis Alberto Urrea

April: The Paris Daughter by Kristen Harmel

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.

## **Still More Opportunities to Serve!**

Our nominating committee is seeking to fill positions of many types for the upcoming year(s). We don't always know if someone is enthusiastic about a particular kind of serving, if we don't know them ourselves. Here's what we need:

1. Camp of the Cross representatives (3) to annual meeting in late February.
2. Missouri Slope Annual representatives (2) to annual meeting in late September.
3. WND Synod Assembly Voting Members (3). Meets in Watford City May 30-June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Congregation covers expenses.
4. Endowment Committee: 2 people. Term is three years.
5. LCC Church Council: 1 person. Term is three years.

If you are interested in any of these, do let Heather Martin, Jessi Karvo, Mike Geiermann, Gerri Sarsten, Melissa Long or Pastor Lisa know!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
January 2024 Altar Focus: Closet 701 & Library— Warm outerwear	1 New Year's Day Office closed	2 Needlework Grp 9am	3 5:00p Supper 6:15p Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation, River	4 AA Mtg 8pm	5	6 Men's Bible Study 10am River practice 4p
7 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	8 Needlework Group 9am	9	10 5:00p Supper 6:15p Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation, River practice	11 Quilting re- sumes 1pm Church Council 6:30pm AA Mtg 8pm	12	13 Men's Bible Study 10am River practice 4p
14 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	15 Needlework Group 9am	16	17 Book Club 1:30pm 5:00p Supper 6:15 Worship 7p NO Church School, Confirmation, River	18 Quilting 1p Gather Bible Study 10:30am AA Mtg 8pm Theology on Tap 7pm The Tavern	19 Wired Word 1:30pm	20 Men's Bible Study 10am River practice 4p
21 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Annual Mtg Potluck	22 Needlework Group 9am	23	24 Women's Bible Study 9am 5:00p Supper 6:15 Worship 7p Church School,	25 Quilting 1pm AA Mtg. 8pm	26 Wired Word 1:30pm	27 Men's Bible Study 10am River practice 4p
28 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	29 Needlework Group 9am Knitting 4 Oth- ers 1:30pm	30	31 5p Supper 6:15 Worship 7p Church School, NO Confirmation, River			



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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**