



The Cross Word March 2024

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Ps 51:10

I watched the Greatest Of All Time devotion (pun unintended but totally deserved) this morning from Prairie Faith Devotions on Facebook, sent by Pr. Mike Pretzer from Dickinson/Richardton. He decided to talk about Lent and some of his favorite hymns, all from his barn and surrounded by his herd of goats. Hilarity ensued. The goats were hopping all around – one onto his shoulders while he was trying to read hymn lyrics! – and another stole the paper right out of his hands. “O Sacred Head Now Wounded,” he read. “Oh no! Good grief!!”

It was a good laugh, but it also made me think about how I *intend* to “do Lent”, by slowing down, taking some time apart, thinking deep thoughts, etc. – and how often life explodes on me no matter what my intentions may be.

Pastor Mike clearly is a patient man, and he stayed remarkably calm. Which also made me think that regardless of how haywire things might go – no matter the circumstances we find ourselves in – God’s still got us. God is and will be with us and for us, always.

Blessed Lent to you all. See you in church!

Pastor Lisa

Holy Week Worship Services

Palm/Passion Sunday	March 24	10 a.m.
with procession of Palms and reading of the Passion Pancake & Sausage Breakfast following service		
Maundy Thursday	March 28	7 p.m.
with celebration of First Communion		
Good Friday	March 29	7 p.m.
Tenebrae service of shadows		
Ecumenical Easter Vigil	March 30	7 p.m.
at Lord of Life Lutheran, 1143 N. 26 th St in Bismarck		
Easter Sunday	March 31	8:00 a.m. and 10 a.m.
with continental breakfast between services		



Palms and Pancakes on Palm Sunday, March 24!

Even if you're new around here, you may have figured out that LCC is a pancake and sausage breakfast-friendly place! Great food, great fellowship, and a wonderful way to support ministries we care about. We always do one later in the year to benefit Camp of the Cross, and this one, on Palm Sunday, has become a custom to support Missouri Slope, the Lutheran care center our members helped form some 60 years ago. Come and enjoy! (And, if you would like to buy extra Wishek sausage, please call them and order ahead and we will pick up for you. Do let us know by the 17th.)

Peeps Dioramas Return!

Some people think one of the greatest things about spring is the return of Peeps marshmallow candies in many forms and colors. Whatever you think of eating them, it turns out they are great fun to work with artistically, as well! This year our church school students and any others who are interested will once again create Bible or Easter themed dioramas using Peeps and other items. Wednesday students, you will do these during normal class times. Sunday students, please come early at 9 am on Sundays, March 10 and 24 (cereal/milk provided) or stay after worship those Sundays (pizza provided), or both. The dioramas will be displayed for all to enjoy on Easter Sunday!



Our "usual" age for first communion class is third grade; however, we have a group of first grade and older students interested in learning more about communion. Your child is invited to come to a class on Saturday, March 23, noon to 2pm where we will bake communion bread with an altar guild mentor, and learn some things while it is baking. That bread will be used for worship on Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 7 pm, where this group will celebrate First Communion.



Please let Pastor Lisa know your child is coming, so we can plan appropriately for ingredients, and if you have questions. ** Also, please have your child (you, too, ideally!) watch "The Prince of Egypt" before this class.** It is a Disney movie from 1998. You can stream it if you prefer, or the church has 4 copies of the DVD to lend.

Ministry Opportunities FREE with your Thrivent account!

Are you a Thrivent member? If so, be sure to make use of some opportunities (free to you!) to help others.

Thrivent Action Teams. Every Thrivent member is eligible for two \$250 grants each year. These are a great way to bring people together to make an immediate impact with an educational or community project. LCC always has an “ideas list” going for ways that these could be used. Please speak to Pastor Lisa if you’d like to know more.

Thrivent Choice Dollars: Again, no cost to you – but these dollars are allocated by you to charities of your choice. Lutheran Church of the Cross, Missouri Slope, Camp of the Cross and many others are possibilities. If you’re not sure how this works, go online into your Thrivent account or call your agent. Making good use of your membership allows you to be even more generous! Please note that Thrivent Choice Dollars do need to be allocated by March 31.

Worship with us this Lent!

Each Wednesday through March we begin with a soup and bread supper starting at 5 pm, served by our Faith and Care groups. (There is always chicken noodle soup available, if you have picky young ones, along with a special soup of the week.) Worship will begin at 6:15 pm, and includes communion.

In our Wednesday Lenten series, coordinated by Deb Carpenter, we will be presenting the faith stories of some of members of our faith family in this congregation. We are honored that some are willing to step forward and share how faith and prayer shaped their lives and the very structure of this church! We will hear how God’s hand was revealed in life events where someone didn’t expect, how prayer radically changed someone’s path, and how the actions of others showed God’s love in some dark times. There will be one faith story presented each Wednesday. These worship services will be livestreamed – if you should have to miss one, you can go back and watch it later. We hope you can join us for these powerful messages!

Seniors Did you know that you can sign up for lunch meals through the Senior Center. You even have options to get your meal. You may eat inside with your friends, you can drive up to pick up your meal or you may have them delivered to your home. To participate in either of the three ways participants must complete a meal assessment. Suggested donation is \$4.50/meal. SNAP benefits may be used. (They also offer flash frozen meals.) By the way the Senior Citizen Center is always looking for volunteers to deliver meals. Call them if you can help deliver meals or to make meal arrangements . 255.4648

Altar Focus for March

Our main Lenten altar focus continues til Easter, with the Sweet Deal for CAR. You take a tube of mini m&ms, enjoy the sweets, fill the plastic tube with your choice of offering and return it to the offering plate. These donations support our sister church in the Central African Republic, which just celebrated its 100th anniversary last year. In a war-torn country, the church does much to support its people, and you can help, with: schools, churches, a women's center, a clinic, and motorcycles to help pastors and lay evangelists get from one place to another. Thank you for your generosity!

March project: Closet 701 is a ministry in town that gives away clothing and now kitchen wares to those in need. You are always welcome to donate clothes, bedding, shoes, coats, and kitchenware! One thing always in great need – and that must be new, not used – is underwear. So this month, you are invited to bring a package or more of new underwear, children or adult sizes. Let's see what we can do to make life easier for someone. Thank you for joining in.

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

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. We will be picking the next books to read so bring your suggestions.



Theology on Tap March 21 @ Broadway Grill & Tavern 7pm..

In the Footsteps of Paul tour coming in March 2025!

We have many tools to help Bible stories come alive for us: maps, study guides, commentaries, different translations. But nothing brings more aha! moments and enhances understanding better than traveling to the places and getting to know the context that surround and shape the story.

Pastor Lisa will be leading a group to Greece and Turkey, to some of the places where Paul preached and ministered, from March 18-29, 2025. You will visit Thessaloniki, Philippi, the Meteora monasteries, Delphi, Athens, a 4 day cruise excursion taking us to Mykonos, Ephesus (Turkey), Patmos, Rhodes, Crete, and Santorini; and Corinth, before returning to Athens for departure. Full information is available now; let Pr. Lisa know if you are interested in hearing more about it or know someone who might like to go.

Did you know:

LCC council meetings are open to all members? In fact, our confirmands are asked to attend one, just to see how it works and what happens there. You are welcome to attend. If you should have an issue or concern that you would like to have discussed at council, please speak to the president or one of the council members to have it placed on the agenda. Their contact info is on the back of the Sunday bulletin, which you can pick up in church or look up online. **Church Council** is meeting March 7 at 6:30 pm; a week earlier than usual to accommodate people's schedules.

Sunday Hosts and Dishwashers always needed!

Fellowship time after Sunday worship is one of the highlights of the week for many of us. If you haven't stayed – make an effort to calm your schedule for another half hour and join in. Of course, we could just drink coffee – but the treats provided by some – cookies, donuts, breads, muffins – store bought or homemade – really add to the “flavor” of the time together. And, naturally, even just coffee cups need to be washed. Check your schedule and sign up for a Sunday, with a friend if you like, to host or to wash dishes (training provided – it's easy and quick!). Share the fun and assure this fellowship doesn't become a burden because only a few help out.

THE ACOUSTIC TILES ARE HERE!

If you are one who can't stay for fellowship because the ambient noise level in the fellowship hall is too much for your ears or hearing aids, rejoice with me! The acoustic tiles bought with a gift from the estate of Bryce and Maxine Hill will soon be installed and, we hope, will make a huge positive difference in the experience of those happily chatting away in this space. We are grateful for the gift that made this possible.

Camp of the Cross scholarships available for campers!

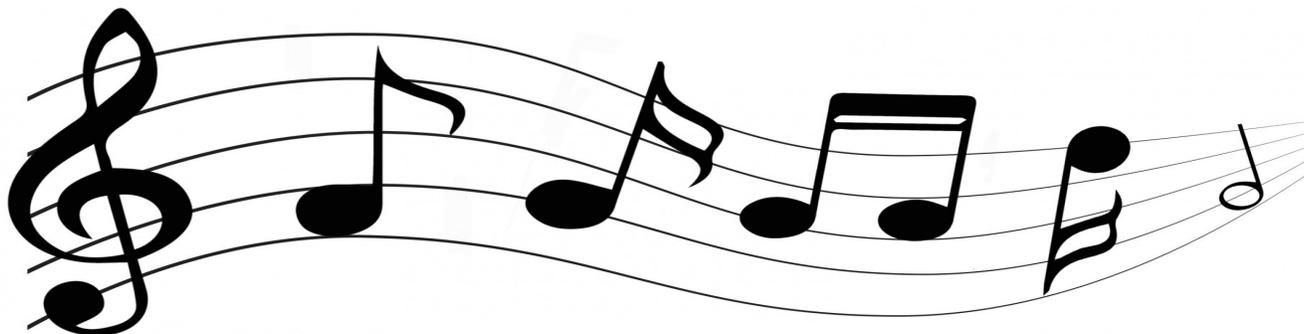
Have you ever been to Camp of the Cross, near Garrison? It is fantastic! Check out the brochures on the kids' table near the library and see all the summer opportunities for youth. (The bulletin board has upcoming retreats, as well!) We don't want cost to be an impediment to your child being able to have this fabulous camp experience. \$100 scholarships are available. Please contact Pastor Lisa or treasurer Art Wheeler.

Are You Pictured in the Directory?

It's easy. We no longer need to go through the arduous process of finding time in our schedules, signing up, showing up, having portraits taken, being given a sales pitch even if we know we don't want any....just to be in the church's picture directory. This directory is so helpful in allowing us each to put names to the faces we see around LCC. The contact info comes in handy, too! Please have someone take your picture – just on their or your phone will do – and send it to Connie's email: churchsecretary@midconetwork.com. And *voila!* You will be included in the next printing. Connie is printing a few with updates whenever they are gone from the table in the narthex. If you haven't recently, please stop to look at one and make sure the information for your entry is correct. And if you would like us to take your picture so it can be included, just call the office to arrange! We are glad to do it. The more of us we can "get to know" with this tool, the better!

The Concordia Choir Returns to Bismarck

The Concordia College Choir, directed by Dr. Michael Culloton and recently voted one of the top ten college choirs in the country, will be in concert at Trinity Lutheran Church (3rd St. and Ave B in downtown Bismarck) on Saturday, March 2nd, at 4 p.m. Tickets are available right here in the LCC church office, at Eckroth Music, online at ConcordiaTickets.com, and at the door. Adults \$20. Students free. This choir is fantastic, and we are thrilled their tour is stopping in Bismarck. And, bonus: five Bismarck graduates, including one of our very own LCC "church kids", Duncan Tufte, sing with the choir! Don't miss your chance to hear them, and in a fantastic church venue to boot. Invite your friends!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March 2024 Altar Focus: C.A.R. And Closet 701					1 Wired Word 1:30pm	2 Men's Bible Study 10am
3 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	4 Needlework Group 9am	5 5:00p Lenten Supper 6:15p Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation, River	6 5:00p Lenten Supper 6:15p Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation, River	7 Quilting 1pm- Church Council 6:30pm AA Mtg 8pm	8 Wired Word 1:30pm	9 Men's Bible Study 10am
10 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	11 Needlework Group 9am	12 Book Club 1:30pm 5:00 Lenten Supper 6:15 Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation, River	13 Book Club 1:30pm 5:00 Lenten Supper 6:15 Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation, River	14 Quilting 1p AA Mtg 8pm	15 Wired Word 1:30pm	16 Men's Bible Study 10am
17 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	18 Needlework Group 9am	19 5:00 Lenten Supper 6:15 Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation, River	20 5:00 Lenten Supper 6:15 Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation, River	21 Quilting 1pm AA Mtg. 8pm Theology on Tap Broadway Grill	22 Wired Word 1:30pm	23 Men's Bible Study 10am
24/31 Palm Sunday/ Pancake Breakfast EASTER 8a Service Brunch 10a River	25 Needlework Group 9am Knitting 4 Oth- ers 1:30pm	26 27 Women's Bible 9a 5p Lenten Supper 6:15 Worship 7p NO Church School, or Confirmation, River 7pm	27 Women's Bible 9a 5p Lenten Supper 6:15 Worship 7p NO Church School, or Confirmation, River 7pm	28 Maundy Thursday 7pm First Communion Quilting 1pm AA Mtg. 8pm	29 Good Friday Tenebrae 7pm	30 Men's Bible Study 10am Easter Vigil Lord of Life 7pm



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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