



## The Cross Word April 2024

### From Pastor Lisa

Not that the weather isn't always a topic of conversation in North Dakota – but we've

had quite an interesting winter (or lack of it) and spring (or lack of it)! I joked with a few people that the last few weeks of up and down temperatures were designed specifically so that we all would get sick in the end! But hopefully many of us escaped the colds and flu.

I write this in Holy Week, as we journey together from the hallelujahs and waving palms of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, through the story of his passion and crucifixion, and out the other side to the joy and amazement of his resurrection.

The services this week are varied and interesting. If you've not experienced all of them, they will deepen your faith – come and see! Maundy Thursday at 7 pm we celebrate the Last Supper with Jesus and his disciples and watch as he cares for them like a servant, washing their feet. Good Friday we strip the altar bare as we experience a Tenebrae service of readings and shadows. Holy Saturday we join with five other churches to do a one-hour Easter Vigil at 7 pm at Lord of Life Lutheran Church (1143 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street) – this is a very interesting service of fire, word, water, and communion – no sermon. And on Easter morning we have two services, at 8 am and 10 am, with a continental breakfast in between. Except for the 8 am Easter service, they are all livestreamed, so if you miss one, you can look it up and watch it from our website.

Once again, this year our church school children – and some confirmation students as well! – got creative with Bible stories and marshmallow "peeps", fashioning dioramas of Bible stories with the colorful peeps starring as the characters. These dioramas are currently in the fellowship hall, serving as centerpieces on the tables. If you haven't seen them yet, come admire and appreciate their artistic creativity this weekend! (the thing about peep dioramas is that they're not terribly long-lasting!)

As they do this project, naturally the students talk about their favorite Bible stories. Have you ever done that with someone? It's a great way to break the ice and maybe even gain insight into the story, through their perspective. What's your favorite Bible story or character, and why? This might be a very fun thing to share with one another around your Easter table. God's story is always intimately connected with our own!

Blessings as we celebrate the joy of Easter, and of spring coming again. See you in church!



## **Pancake and Sausage Redux!**

Most of you are aware that, because of the weather forecast (which thankfully turned out to be not as severe as anticipated), we postponed the pancake and sausage breakfast until Sunday, April 7, after worship until the crowds stop coming. Thanks to the many volunteers who are willing to adapt to a new time and help anyway, and to all of you who have or are donating items for the meal. This postponed “Palms and Pancakes” breakfast is a benefit for Missouri Slope Care Center. We also have the privilege of meeting and welcoming their new foundation director, Gayla Sherman – who, as it happens,

is also a professional harpist, and will play for us during worship. Come enjoy pancakes and Wishek sausage for a good cause!

## **Calling You Artists!**

Thanks to Sheila Link for the beautiful Easter bulletin board! It’s time once again to think about future ones. Would you like to try your hand at a bulletin board? Pentecost is May 19 – the coming of the Holy Spirit. That might be a fun one to do! Or, maybe one as we welcome summer in June? Let Pr. Lisa or the office know if you are interested. Individuals, families, or groups of artists are welcome and encouraged! It’s so fun to see your creativity shine.

## **Heat the Church – Altar Flowers - Thank You!**

Many of you gave extra in honor or in memory of your dear ones as part of our “heat the church” project over the winter. Almost every day on the calendar was spoken for by someone – occasionally even two families! Many of you also sponsored flowers for the Resurrection Garden which beautifies our altar area at Easter. Thank you so much for making these extra gifts. They are much appreciated!

## **Angels Among Us**

One of our angels this week is such a consistent fixture at LCC that it’s almost hard to find time to come to church that you won’t see her! I’m talking about our worship coordinator of 2-1/2 years, Beth Greff. Beth has worked extraordinarily hard to get to know our congregation, its worship habits and quirks, all the musicians, production folks and other volunteers that make worship run, and the software involved accomplishing much of what needs to be done. She listens to, finds, runs through, and rehearses music to fit with the scripture message for the day. She puts music in binders, pulls it out after worship and files it again. She rehearses with the River worship team, for special services sometimes multiple times a week. Because we are short on keyboardists, she plays for most worship services. She creates projections for worship services. All this alongside her full-time job as a teaching librarian at Mandan Middle School and as a busy grandma. And she volunteers with the Living Water worship team on Wednesdays and rehearses on Sundays! (continued next page) **Angels Among Us continued...**

Beth and her husband Francis recently joined LCC, and we couldn't be happier to have them. Francis has already joined the production team, running the sound board. Pat these two angels on the back when you see them in worship!

## **Speaking of Generosity – Opportunities for Giving**

At worship you often hear me thank you for your generosity. We are grateful! Our many ministries here at LCC and those we support in the community and wider world could not do it without you! Here are some ways you can give at and through LCC. Choose which fits your lifestyle best!

**Offering envelopes:** These are found on the oak cabinet in the narthex, far right side (or ask treasurer Art Wheeler, if they are gone). You can put cash or checks in these and as long as your name is on it (or Art is aware of your envelope number), your offering will be recorded for you.

**Online:** we use Vanco for our other forms of giving. All the options are linked, so you can give through any of the following ways, and they will all be recorded for you. Art sends statements a couple of times per year.

**Website:** you can easily set up an online giving account on our website – then you don't have to do it each time you go online. You can also set recurring gifts if you like, and choose various funds to give to, through the website.

**Vanco Mobile App:** you can download the Vanco Mobile app on your phone. This will link to the same account, if you've set one up on the website, or you can give only through the app if you like. Just make sure to choose OUR Lutheran Church of the Cross, as there are others!

**Text:** You can also give by text! I know – the world these days! Many people no longer carry cash – but almost everyone carries their smart phone. So, you can use the Vanco Mobile app, OR you can simply send a text to our dedicated number: **701969-7030**. Just put a number in the message – 20 if you'd like to give \$20, etc. It will prompt you to sign in or set up a Vanco account (which would have your credit, debit or checking account number, which is where the money would come from in any of these cases – all safely encrypted, of course. This is the same account used for the other methods.). You can test this by giving a \$1 donation, say, and if you find it simple – maybe this will be your choice for giving!

## **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.

## **Ongoing Bible/Book Studies: All are welcome!**

We all are different and enjoy different things. We hope you will come and enjoy some of these! Weekly: the Wired Word study meets in the conference room at 1:30 pm on Fridays. This is a current events/Bible study. Pastor Lisa will send it to your email the day before if you let her know – or just come! The Men's Bible Study meets at 10 am on Saturdays and looks at the gospel lesson for the next day. Always good discussion!

Monthly: The Gather Bible study meets on the third Thursday at 10:30 am, and uses the study from Gather, the ELCA women's magazine. We have copies in the library and have more available at the study. The morning women's Bible/book study meets the fourth Wednesday at 9:00 am. You never have to read ahead, and we have extra books. Just come join in! Our Book Club, facilitated by our intrepid librarian Marjo Hewitson, meets on the second Wednesday at 1:30 pm. The list of upcoming books – one each month – is listed in the bulletin and newsletter. Come join in! Theology on Tap meets at a different pub/place each month, generally the third Thursday at 7 pm. Come enjoy your favorite beverage and some great conversation.

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

April: The Paris Daughter by Kristen Harmel

May: The Midwife's Song by Brenda Ray

June: The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters

July: To Heaven & Back by Mary C. Neal

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

**Theology on Tap** April 18th @ Black Lions Mandan, ND 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 surrounds and shapes 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. **The Church Council** is meeting April 11 at 6:30pm.

### **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 helps out.

**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

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## **Altar Focus – Bingo prizes for Missouri Slope!**

Some are enthusiastically competitive; some are more mellow about it – but many enjoy playing bingo at Missouri Slope. You can make this frequent activity even more fun by joining in this month's altar focus, which is: bingo prizes for Missouri Slope! Let your imagination go wild and think of the things you yourself might enjoy as a treat for topping off your lucky day, such as: consumables like sugar free candy, snack cracker packs, candy bars, pop (diet orange and coke are special favorites) puzzle books, lotion, knick knacks, small pictures, socks with grippers, stuffed animals, body spray, necklaces, lounge pants, blankets (special prize for blackout bingo). Especially needed are small gifts for men. Thanks for helping make someone's day!

**The children receiving their First Communion on Maundy Thursday were:**



**Claire Burkhartsmeier**

**Vivia D**

**Abigail E**

**Jaxon J**

**Belle N**

**Ford N**

**Nora N**

**Tate N**

**Emerick S**

**Sebastian S**

**Blessings to you as you continue to grow in your faith.**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April 2024 Altar Focus: Bingo prizes for MSLLC	1 Easter Monday Office Closed	2	3 5:00p Supper 6:15p Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation, River	4 Quilting 1p AA Mtg 8pm	5 Wired Word 1:30pm	6 Men's Bible Study 10am
7 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Sausage & Pancake Breakfast	8 Needlework Group 9am	9	10 5:00p Supper Book Club 1:30pm 6:15p Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation, River	11 Quilting 1pm- Church Council 6:30pm AA Mtg 8pm	12 Wired Word 1:30pm	13 Men's Bible Study 10am
14 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	15 Needlework Group 9am	16	17 5:00 Supper 6:15 Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation, River	18 10:30 Gather Bible Study Quilting 1p AA Mtg 8pm Theology on Tap 7pm Black Lions	19 Wired Word 1:30pm	20 Men's Bible Study 10am
21 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	22 Needlework Group 9am Knitting 4 Others 1:30pm	23	24 9:00 Women's Bible Study 5:00 Supper 6:15 Worship 7p Church School, NO Confirmation, River	25 Quilting 1pm AA Mtg 8pm	26 Wired Word 1:30pm	27 Men's Bible Study 10am
28 10a River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	29 Needlework Group 9am	30				



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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**