



The Cross Word June 2024

From Pastor Lisa,

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing... Ephesians 1:3

It's summer!! And what a beautiful beginning to summer it has been. I am, of course, speaking as a non-farmer, so I hope the rains have been as timely for them and the ranchers as they have been for our neighborhoods. The time of blossoming crabapple trees, closely followed by lilacs, was gorgeous and fragrant. Tulips cheered us all up, and now irises and many others are coming, too. "How wonderful are your works, O God" said the psalmist, and it's hard to disagree!

For many, summer brings changes to schedules. School is out; kids are home and active in a multitude of ways; the gardeners are madly gardening and the lawn-mowers possibly don't appreciate the rain and growth of green things as much as I do. We are enjoying BBQs and family reunions and getting out and walking and running and biking and picnicking and camping and long evenings with friends. We know the warmth won't last, so we make the most of it while we can. Summer is glorious.

All these activities may change up our spiritual life, as well. Yet these changes bring with them opportunity, too! You may be away and not be able to be at worship at LCC. Wherever you are, if you have wifi access, you can always join us online! And also, this may be an opportunity for you to stop in at an unfamiliar congregation, ELCA or other – wherever you find yourself – and experience worship in a new place and quite possibly in some new ways. If you are excited about what you experience, come home and tell us about it!

We do enjoy outdoor summer worship together at LCC each second Wednesday of the month, following a grill out and potluck picnic. Our first one is next week already! If you are in town on June 12, please stop over for a picnic at 5 and/or worship at 6. Bring your favorite chair if you like, or use ours. And invite friends! Nothing fills one's spirit like fellowship with friends and neighbors.

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God is also present in the beauty of the creation and the many ways we experience it. Take some time each day to feel gratitude, to feed your spirit and be embraced by God's Spirit through the plants, waters, people, and creatures around you. All these are spiritual blessings with which Christ blesses us – no matter the time of year, but they may feel heightened just now.

I'm sure I've shared this favorite poem before, but it comes to my head like a prayer, several times a day in summer. Enjoy. Hope to see you soon!

In Christ,
Pastor Lisa

*i thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes*

*(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)*

*how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?*

*(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)*
e.e. cummings

Altar Focus

We again have two projects for our altar focus this month: Father the Camp (any further gifts for Mother the Camp are also welcome), and items for baby care kits to be put together later this summer for Lutheran World Relief. Summer is rummage sale season, and we hope you'll be on the lookout for items for baby care kits: sweaters, hats, t-shirts, blankets, etc. You can find the whole list here and also on the tables in the narthex, as well as a list of items needed at camp for Father the Camp.

June Altar Focus: Father the Camp and LWR Baby Care Kits

SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER for the Baby Care Kits:

- Please include sizes between 6 and 24 months. Varying the sizes of the clothing items included will make the Baby Care Kit useful as the baby grows.
- Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted from leftover yarn, or made from heavy double knits. Select a pattern that suits your skill level. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front.
- Diapers can be made from flannel or even by recycling t-shirts. Download a Diaper Tip Sheet from our LWR website.
- If knitting or crocheting receiving blankets, including one knitted/crocheted blanket and one flannel blanket will provide maximum versatility.
- Onesies can be cut and hemmed or serged to make a simple t-shirt.
- Gowns, rompers or top/pants sets can be substituted for sleepers.
- Gently used, clean clothing and blankets (no stains or tears) may be substituted for new ones. It is especially important that the items be in excellent condition, as used clothing is increasingly difficult to get through customs in many countries. Even one item that looks worn or stained to local officials can jeopardize the status of a whole shipment. All other items (diapers, towel, soap) in the kit must be new.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.
- INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH BABY CARE KIT
 - TWO lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies ®)
 - TWO long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
 - TWO receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with light weight yarn, between 36" and 52" square
 - FOUR cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
 - ONE jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
 - TWO pairs of socks
 - ONE hand towel, dark color recommended
 - TWO or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars
 - TWO diaper pins or large safety pins

Note: We will announce a day later in the summer when we will be assembling the baby care kits. Come and join in if you can.

Father the Camp

2022

Thank you for your support of CCM!

You make a difference in our ministry together!

In support of Father's Day this year, please consider donating for our shop and site.

Below you will find items that are necessary and needed in our ministry!

God's Blessing and Happy Father's Day from CCM!

Site:

- Window A/C Units
- Larger Tractor – new or used
-for snow removal and the moving of equipment
- Vehicle Trailer
- Light Bulbs
- Fuel Gift Cards
- Gravel Drag
- Post Driver
- Chainsaw (preferably electric)
- Ground Tamper
- Brush Hog
- ATV
- Leaf Blowers
- Pressure Washer (new or new to us!)
- *New* Construction Lumber
- Outdoor Grounded Extension Cords
- Stump Grinder
- Fly Traps

Shop:

- Vehicle Code Reader
- Welding Hood
- Ear Protection
- Eye Protection
- Work Gloves
- Brake Clean
- Assorted shop tools
- Work lights
- Nail guns (all sizes)
- Air Hose (for small compressor)
- Large Air Compressor
- Assorted bolts w/nuts
- Spray paint
- Motor Oil
- Oil Filters
- Scrap Metal (Bar Stock, tubing, etc.)
- Duct Tape
- Used but “new” to us professional paint sprayer
- Weed eater lines of all sizes
- Bench Vise



Again, gift cards and monetary donations are appreciated at this time to purchase items we need...

Angels Among Us

Pastor Sondra Krogstad is our angel this month! Being new in our congregation didn't stop her from jumping in with both feet right from the start! Sondra often does the children's message during Sunday worship, which is always a big hit with somewhat "older" kids as well! She also teaches Church School, and is always willing to preach, preside, or lead Bible studies when Pastor Lisa is out of town. Sondra is often helping solve the problems of the world or the mysteries of the Bible at the Wired Word study on Fridays. And, she is a person of good humor and full of fun! Enjoy some fellowship time with Pastor Sondra when you can, and be sure to tell her how glad we are she's here!

Congratulations To Our 2024 Graduates!

We have two outstanding high school graduates this spring: Callie Collins, from Century High School, and Keelin Traynor, from Bismarck High School. We are proud of you, and look forward to seeing you and hearing about your college adventures and accomplishments next year!

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.

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

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. .



Prairie Lake Festival

Saturday, June 15 is the Prairie Lake Festival at Camp of the Cross! This is a time for you to visit the camp and take a tour if you haven't; enjoy great fellowship and fantastic food; see the beautiful quilts and other items made by crafty artists all over the area, and join in the quilt auction which is a major fundraiser for our beloved camp. The festival opens at 11 a.m.; the quilt auction begins at 1 p.m. There is no online option this year: if you cannot go, convince a friend to bid for you!

Vacation Bible School in early August this year!!!

In recent years, we have done VBS just after school finishes. This year, we thought we'd try a different time, and see if it fits people's wishes and schedules even better! So, together with our neighbors from the UCC church who will host, we will hold VBS from Sunday to Wednesday, August 4th – 7th, from 6 – 7:30 p.m. The VBS program will be held as part of the Neighborhood Block Party on Wednesday, August 7th. The focus will be on animals. On the 7th there will be a parents program at 6pm at UCC. (The Block Party is going on at that same time there.) A paper registration is available in the narthex and the online registration forms is shorturl.at/3mrc1 .

Neighborhood Block Party

Once again this August we will get together with our friends from UCC and sponsor a neighborhood block party! We've moved the date up a bit, as we've always done it just before school started, but this can be an incredibly busy time. We want everyone to be able to relax and enjoy a couple of hours together! We'll begin with food and fellowship at 5:30 pm at the UCC church with grilled hotdogs and other potluck items. At 7 pm we'll move over to LCC for dessert, lawn games, a bounce house and the VBS program. Mark your calendars!

PS Walking enthusiasts are invited to join in to walk the neighborhood in later July to leave block party invitations at each house. Let Pastor Lisa know if you'd like to help.

Drivers Needed to take items to CCM

Thank you for your warm and generous support of our Mother the Camp drive! We are glad to have collected so many helpful items. Pastor Lisa will be going up for the Prairie Lake Festival, but she can't fit it all in her car. If you are headed to camp that day or anytime earlier, let the office know – we would like to send some items with you!

Summer Worship and Picnics

Mark your calendar now for every second Wednesday this summer: **June 12, July 10, and August 14**. These are the days we will come together for a potluck picnic at 5 pm, and a brief outdoor worship service at 6! LCC will provide the meats/buns (we will grill hamburgers, chicken breast and hot dogs), beverages, and paper products, and invite you to bring other things to share. We do have chairs and tables, but feel free to bring your favorite chair, if you like, and enjoy some food, music and fellowship together this summer! Our Wednesday worship team, Living Water, will lead us on June 12. See you then! Invite your neighbors!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 2024 Altar Focus: Father the Camp for COC Baby Care Kits						1 Men's Bible Study 10am
2 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	3 Needlework Group 9am	4	5	6 AA Mtg 8pm	7 Wired Word 1:30pm	8 Men's Bible Study 10am
9 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	10 Needlework Group 9am	11	12 5pm, 6pm Monthly picnic , Wor- ship and church Coun- cil	13 AA Mtg. 8pm	14 Wired Word 1:30pm	15 Men's Bible Study 10am
16 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	17 Needlework Group 9am	18	19	20 AA Mtg. 8pm	21 Wired Word 1:30pm	22 Men's Bible Study 10am
23 & 30 10a River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	24 Needlework Group 9am	25	26	27 AA Mtg. 8pm	28 Wired Word 1:30pm	29 Men's Bible Study 10am



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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