



The Cross Word

March 2025

From Pastor Lisa

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

I am a sort-of participant on social media (mostly Facebook). If you are too, you know that Facebook does this thing where they send you a “memory” of something that happened on the same date a year ago, or a number of years ago. Sometimes it’s kind of fun, to see photos again (the kids were so small!) and relive experiences, and remember.

One that just reappeared was the famous Greatest Of All Time devotion (pun unintended but totally deserved) from Prairie Faith Devotions, a video devotion by Pr. Mike Pretzer from Dickinson/Richardton. It was so funny that we even showed it in church (with his permission) on the screens one Sunday last year.

Pastor Mike was talking about Lent and some of his favorite hymns, all from his barn and surrounded by his herd of goats. If you’ve ever met a goat, you can imagine how this went. Hilarity ensued. The goats were hopping all around—one actually climbed onto his shoulders while he was trying to read hymn lyrics! Another stole the paper right out of his hands. “O Sacred Head Now Wounded,” he read solemnly, and then as the goat grabbed the paper, “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

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

March: *The Mighty Red* by Louise Erdrich

April: *The Language of Cottonwoods* by Clay Jenkinson

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.

Worship with us this Lent!

Each Wednesday through March we begin with a soup and bread supper starting at 5pm, served by our Faith and Care groups. (There is always chicken noodle soup available, in you have picky young ones, along with a special soup of the week.) Worship will begin at 6:15 pm, and includes communion. Except for Ash Wednesday, March 5, church school and confirmation will take place as usual at 7pm each Wednesday. Ash Wednesday worship will include the imposition of ashes and communion.

Nourish your soul with Bread of Life, our theme this Lent. In a world that feels heavy and uncertain, Jesus offers more than sustenance—he feeds hearts and souls with love, grace, and hope. From wedding feasts to feeding thousands, he gathered people around the table, filling them with good news and abundance.

This Lent, journey through the sacred and the ordinary—like bread, simple yet essential. And a wonderful opportunity to break bread together at supper just before the service!

These worship services will be livestreamed, so if you have to miss a week, you can always go to the church website (churchofthecross.org) later to watch it. Each week features a different scripture and theme:

- Lent 1: Bread of Life (John 6:25-40)
- Lent 2: Bread for Growth (Luke 13:18-21)
- Lent 3: Bread for Each Day (Matthew 6:9-13)
- Lent 4: Bread for Sharing (Luke 14:7-14)

We hope you can join us at LCC for food, fellowship and journeying in faith this Lent.

First Communion Class

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 welcome and invited to come to a class on Saturday, April 12, noon to 1:30pm where we will bake communion bread with an altar guild mentor, and then learn about Holy Communion while it is baking. That bread will be used for worship on Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 7pm, where this group will celebrate their First Communion. Parents and grandparents enjoy this time, too—you are welcome to stay!

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 “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.

New Member Class March 16

Are you interested in joining or learning more about Lutheran Church of the Cross? You are invited to join Pastor Lisa on Sunday, March 16, at 11:15 after worship in the Sunday School room next to the youth room, near the offices and the back door to the parking lot. If that date won't work for you, let Pastor know and you can meet with her another time. All are welcome!

Peeps Dioramas Return! Got any shoeboxes?

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 craft items.

Wednesday students, you will do these on Wednesday, April 2 just after church school class (or maybe even during!) Sunday students, and all others who are interested, please stay after worship on March 30th to create your masterpieces. Treats will be available! The dioramas will be displayed for all to enjoy through Easter Sunday, April 20.

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 also 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 need to be allocated by March 31.

Altar Focus for Lent and March

Our main Lenten altar focus continues all the way till Easter with the Sweet Deal for CAR. You take a tube of mini M&M's (provided on the usher's tables), enjoy the sweets, fill the plastic tube with your choice of offering (change, bills, check) and return it to the offering plate. These donations support our sister church in the Central African Republic, which just celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2022. 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 kitchen wares to those in need. You are always welcome to donate clothes, bedding, towels, 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.

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 13th at 6:30pm.

Angels Among Us: the Plant Whisperers!

Have you noticed the greenery near the front door, up front on the altar area, and elsewhere throughout the church? Thanks to those of you who have donated plants over the years. Our angels this month are those talented individuals who not only help them stay alive but nurture them in just the right ways to help them thrive and beautify our spaces: Patsy Schmidt, Doug Spryncznatyk, and John Kraft, with assistance also from Deb Sargent. Give them a pat on the back for using their skills in this way!!

Bulletin Board artists needed!

Isn't it fun to see what people come up with for the various church seasons? We are looking for someone(s) to do bulletin boards for the Lent and Easter seasons. If you are an artist, love to browse Pinterest, or willing to do a project—let us know. Materials will be provided or reimbursed (just keep your retail slips.) A fun way to express our faith!

Easter Egg Hunt for kids on Palm Sunday!!

Easter is nice and late this year, which gives us the opportunity for great weather for our Easter Egg Hunt! After worship on Sunday, April 13th, Palm Sunday—we will hunt up the goodies and your youngsters are invited!

To prepare for the fun, we will need lots of plastic easter eggs and donations of small items and candy to put in them. Bring your donations to worship or to the office. Late we will need some help filling eggs and hiding them that day -Y'all join in!

Sunday Hosts and Dishwasher 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 us. Of course, we could just drink coffee—but the treat 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!)

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 boards 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. Scholarships are available. Please contact Pastor Lisa or treasurer Art Wheeler.

Youth Grades 4—12: Youth Bash at Camp of the Cross!

Calling all camp fans and all who wanna have fun! There is a youth bash at CCM scheduled for March 28-30! Check out campofthecross.com or watch our bulletins and social media for more info!

Church Swag for 2025!!

2025 is the 70th anniversary of the founding of Lutheran Church of the Cross. We will celebrate a few different ways this year. The first one is offering another opportunity for everyone to order LCC "Church Swag," that is, clothing items and thermal mugs with the colorful LCC logo on them. The online store will open this Sunday, March 9 at 5am and run til midnight on March 31. You can go there directly at link: <https://churchofthecross2025.itemorder.com/shop/home/> Or pick up a paper flyer in the narthex to look at all the options (different colors will only show online). There is a QR code on the flyer to take you to the online store, plus the link above, plus, contact info if you should have any questions about items. Watch for your friends who ordered in the fall to be showing their love of LCC by modeling their swag, too.

Dakota Pro Musica presents Bach's St. John Passion

For the first time in 40 years, one of Bach's larger masterpieces will be performed right here in Bismarck at Trinity Lutheran Church by Dakota Pro Musica, the Bismarck Mandan Civic Chorus, and the Bismarck Mandan Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, March 11, at 7 pm. (Dakota Pro Musica, a professional vocal ensemble, features our own Luke Weber, along with other talented musicians!)

Tickets are available in person at Trinity Lutheran Church, Eckroth Music, and Mayo Pharmacy for \$20/person or \$50 /family until March 20. Then the price goes up to \$25/person. Or look up Dakota Pro Musica on Facebook for the link to buy tickets online.

Get 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 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 come 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 copies with updated info 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!

LCC Women's Retreat at Camp of the Cross April 25 & 26, 2025!

Pastor Lisa will guide us through a few short sessions and activities on 'Hope'. We will enjoy breakfast and a late lunch on Saturday prepared by Camp staff along with our discussions, and have time to enjoy the camp grounds, too, weather permitting.

Hopefully several of us will be able to go up on Friday afternoon, have supper together in Garrison, and spend the evening relaxing.

Costs: \$80. for Friday/Saturday or
\$35. for Saturday only.

Questions: call Sally Grenz 701.390.3049

Payment to LCC, memo: Women's Retreat

RSVP by April 17th please!

Delay in newsletter

New computer, new operating system, printing issues and an aging secretary! A great combination!

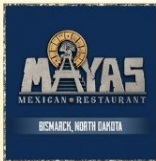
Gospel PraiSing FIESTA!

NOURISH THE BODY NOURISH THE SOUL

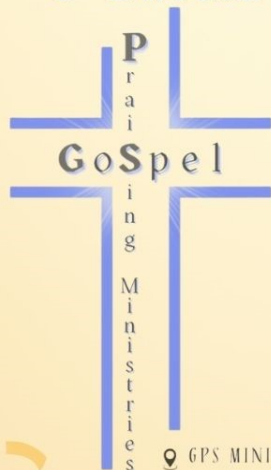
Mayas Mexican
Restaurant

1601 W. Century Ave
Bismarck

Lunch -order off menu



Christian Music
Presented by:
Colleen Reinhardt
Julie Ternes
& Guests



GPS MINISTRIES

SUNDAYS
11:30AM-1:30PM

January 5th

January 19th

February 9th

February 23rd

March 9th

March 23rd

April 6th

April 27th

May 4th

May 18th

June 8th

June 22nd

August 24th-Gospel
PraiSing Festival

Presented By: Gospel PraiSing (GPS) Ministries

JULIE TERNES 701-226-0356



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YOU IMAGINE IT WE PRINT IT

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March 2025 Altar Focus: CAR & 701 Closet						1 Men's Bible Study 10am
2 9:00 Practice 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	3 Needlework Group 9am	4	5 Ash Wednesday 5:00p Lenten Supper 6:15p Worship 7p NO Church School or Confirma- tion	6 Quilting 1pm AA Mtg 8pm	7 Wired Word 1:30pm	8 Men's Bible Study 10am
9 9:00 Practice 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	10 Needlework Group 9am	11	12 Book Club 1:30 5:00 Lenten Supper 6:15 Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation, River practice	13 Church Council 6:30pm Quilting 1p AA Mtg 8pm	14 Wired Word 1:30pm	15 Men's Bible Study 10am
16 9:00 Practice 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	17 Needlework Group 9am	18	19 5:00 Lenten Supper 6:15 Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation, River practice	20 SPRING!! Quilting 1pm AA Mtg. 8pm	21 Wired Word 1:30pm	22 Men's Bible Study 10am
23 9:00 Practice 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour 30 same	24 Needlework Group 9am 31 Needlework Group 9am	25	26 Lenten Supper 6:15 Worship 7p Church School, Confirmation, River practice	27 Quilting 1pm AA Mtg. 8pm	28 Wired Word 1:30pm	29 Men's Bible Study 10am



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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