



# The Cross Word

## April 2025

From Pastor Lisa

From Pastor Lisa,

*"April showers bring May flowers." So April snows bring.... ??*

One of my friends said, "Lent is feeling very.... Lent-y. She's slogging through some difficult things, and frankly – who isn't? The weather might not be helping. Yes, we are grateful for the moisture (!!!). And yes, this winter hasn't been that bad. It's heartening to see the geese flying back north. But still, our hearts yearn for spring and green and new life.... And yet, we feel stuck and mired in whatever rut we find ourselves this season.

Not long ago, I preached a sermon on Luke 13:1-9, which ends with the parable of the fig tree that isn't bearing fruit. The landowner tells the gardener to cut it down, why waste space, it hasn't borne fruit in three years! The gardener pleads for more time to dig around it and put manure on it.

I learn things whilst getting ready to preach: in my reading, through insights of my colleagues, etc. For instance, that fig trees apparently don't bear fruit until they're 4-5 years old, and it's only been three in the parable. Are fig trees really planted in vineyards? (Apparently so – they let the gardener know if the soil is good.) And, if you garden, you know poop has to settle and mellow for a while before it generally makes good fertilizer.

It may be we're in a season of settling. Sometimes we just have to wait for awhile. Stuff ("poop") has happened, but the growth nourished and nurtured by that has not yet appeared. Fruit may be budding that isn't (or isn't yet) valued by ourselves or others.

Yet God is at work, lifting us and turning us toward the mercy and grace of God. Lord, let our hearts be good soil, open to the seed of your Word. As we sing in WOV #713: where love can grow and peace is understood. When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Peace to you this Lent. Soon we celebrate the Resurrection!

Pastor Lisa

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

April: The Language of Cottonwoods by Clay Jenkinson

May: Share your thoughts on a book read only by you.

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.

### **First Communion Class**

Our “usual” age for first communion class is third grade; however, we have a group of first graders 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.

### **WANTED: Summer Grillers and picnic setup!**



Our faithful and hard working summer picnic grillers have decided to retire from their many years of picnic duties. THANK YOU to John Kraft, Mike Humann, Rod Sargent, Baron Blanchard and others who jumped in and helped as needed!

We are looking for volunteers, men or women, for the months of June, July and August; only one Wednesday evening per month (or more if you would like!), to take over the duties of grilling and set up for the summer picnics.

If you are interested, call the faith and Care coordinators: Patty Hanson 701.222.1534 or Cheryl Neu 701.391.0952

Thank you for “sharing your gifts” with your church friends

**Heat the Church** program has ended with over 25 families and individuals contributing to multiple times to that particular fund recognizing loved ones birthdays and anniversaries. We thank you for your contributions.

### **Cemetery Plots**

Some of you may remember former members Joe and Linda (now deceased) Brock-el. They moved to South Dakota quite a while ago, and had decided to be buried there. However, they had previously purchased two plots in Sunset Memorial Gardens. The cemetery does not buy them back, so Joe has these plots available. If anyone is interested, we have his phone number in the office and you are welcome to call him.

## **Altar Focus for Lent**

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!

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

Pasto 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 ground, too, weather permitting.

Cost: \$80 for Friday/Saturday (supper in Garrison Friday @ the usual spot)

\$35 for Saturday only

Questions: call Sally Grenz 701.390.3049

Payment to LCC, memo Women's Retreat.

RSVP by April 17th please!

Many people have already signed up. Will you be the next one?

## **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](http://churchofthecross.org)) later to watch it. Each week features a different scripture and theme:

- April 2 Bread for Sharing Luke 14:7-14
- April 9 Bread for Community Luke 19:1-10

No worship on April 16 as it is Holy Week.

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

## Why do I share my musical gifts at church? by AJ Marx

I have been singing in church for more than 10 years. I share my musical gifts because God have given me the gifts of music and appreciation. This is a way of me sharing god with everyone else. The right kind of songs help lift you up when you are feeling down. "Pass It On" is a favorite sone of mine. When I think back to times separated from church like when I was stuck in the hospital for a month, I remembered the songs sung together and it brought the Lutheran Church of the Cross into my room even though they couldn't all fit at the same time. When I can't be there in person, streaming helps a lot. I can still worship with my friends. God wants us to make a joyful noise even if we are not perfect. He loves us just the way we are.

When you have the feeling of maybe I could do that (sing on the worship team) maybe it is God nudging you to give it a try. Because God doesn't always talk in voices. He communicates in different ways.

Love,

AJ Marx

### Did you know:

LCC council meetings are open to all members? 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 next Church Council is meeting April13th at 6:30pm.

### Easter Egg Hunt for kids on Palm Sunday!!

Easter 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. Later we will need some help filling eggs and hiding them that day -Y'all join in! Call the office to say you'd like to help.



# *He is Risen*

DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM.

Rejoice in the resurrection of

*Jesus Christ.*



WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND JOY FILLED EASTER!

## *Easter Week Services*

*Palm Sunday  
10am Service  
Easter Egg Hunt*

*Maundy Thursday Service  
7pm with First Communion*

*Good Friday Tenebrae Service  
7pm*

*Ecumenical Easter Vigil Service  
7pm at Faith Lutheran*

*Easter Sunday  
8am Service  
Brunch  
10am Service  
Brunch*



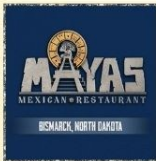
# Gospel PraiSing FIESTA!

NOURISH THE BODY NOURISH THE SOUL

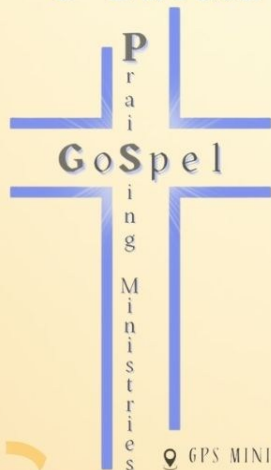
Mayas Mexican  
Restaurant

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



DESTIN2PRINT  
YOU IMAGINE IT WE PRINT IT

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April 2025 Altar Focus: CAR		1	2 Lenten Supper 6:15 Worship 7 Church School, Confirmation, River PEEPS	3 Quilting 1pm AA Mtg 8pm	4 NO Wired Word 1:30pm	5 Men's Bible Study 10am
6 9:00 Practice 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	7 Needlework Group 9am Beer & Hymns 7-9 MDN Eagles	8 W & Music committee 7:30	9 Book Club 1:30 5:00 Lenten Supper 6:15p Worship 7 Church School, Confirmation, River practice	10 Quilting 1pm AA Mtg 8pm Church Council 6:30pm	11 Wired Word 1:30pm	12 Men's Bible Study 10am First Communion class noon-1:30
13 9:00 Practice 10:00 River Worship New Member Sunday 11:00 Coffee Hour Easter Egg Hunt	14 Needlework Group 9am	15	16 River practice No evening activities	17 Maundy Thursday Gather Bible Study 10:30 NO Quilting 1p First Communion Service 7pm AA Mtg 8pm	18 Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7pm No Wired Word Office closed	19 Men's Bible Study 10am Easter Vigil @ Faith Lutheran 7pm
20 Easter 8:00 Early Service 9:00 Brunch, Practice 10:00 River Worship	21 Needlework Group 9am	22	23 5:00 Supper 6:15 Worship NO Church School, or Confirmation, River practice	24 Quilting 1pm AA Mtg. 8pm	25 Wired Word 1:30pm	26 Men's Bible Study 10am
27 9:00 Practice 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	28 Needlework Group 9am Knitting 4 Others	29	30 Supper 6:15 Worship 7 Church School, Confirmation, River			



1004 E Highland Acres Rd  
Bismarck ND 58501

701.223.1001  
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**