



The Cross Word

September 2025

None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. Romans 8:28, The Message translation

Fall is here! This seems amazing to me, partly because school started so early, and partly because the leaves are all still green! How can it be fall already?

I hope you have had some time for refreshment and relaxation this summer, enjoying the things you like to do with people you love. I hope you've had some fun. I hope joy has found you, even in moments when you wouldn't have thought such a thing were possible.

And now, as schedules ramp up in a different way at schools and here at church, I hope you find some of these things as you come together with friends you may not have seen in a while and things you haven't done in a while; or, in meeting some new friends and trying some new things!

I hope you'll find what helps fill your spirit here at LCC. If something's missing, a study or a group that would be helpful – or something new you think would be good to try – please call Pastor Lisa and talk with her. We have ecumenical resources too, and if you're missing something, maybe someone else is, too. Let us know.

Blessings in all the beauty and the busyness of fall. Look forward to seeing you here!

In Christ,

Pastor Lisa



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

September—"The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon

October—"The Secret Life of Sunflowers" by Marta Molnar

Consider coming to the Book Club. We have interesting and lively discussions of each book. Each book is rated according to each person's likes and dislikes. A variety of subjects are read but usually works of fiction. The comradery within the group has become very important and is the reason many come. Come join us!

Fostering Hope: September's Altar Focus

This month's altar focus we will put together birthday kits for families with foster kids. These items are being collected by the organization Fostering Hope. Please bring the below listed items (we will assemble kits and deliver to fostering hope), or put together a whole kit. Let's help make some birthdays happy! Thanks for your help! These are the items needed.

Disposable cake pans

Cake mixes

Birthday candles

Balloons

Birthday cards

Sprite (used in place of oil)

Frosting

Sprinkles



REMEMBERING KINDNESS (SILENT SAINTS)

Summer is still with lazy, warm breezes. My eyes settle on a green, quiet space on the edge of a field where a particular tree, a Chinese Elm, stands alone. It is tall, leafy and to some it may appear to be ordinary, but to this observer, it is extraordinary. A great gift of nature such as this kindles in me such thankfulness. Every day I attempt to commit each step to gratitude. My prayers flow like tap water.

Today is such a far cry from my thoughts that stray back to 1973 when our country was suffering from the effect of the oil crisis. Papa had brought us my grandmother's cast iron bedroom wood stove along with a small amount of wood. I can still visualize its fancy bonnet top and nickel trim. This gift was meant to supplement our meager oil supply.

My neighbor called me that particular –18 morning and asked how we were getting along. My reply to her was, “cold, colder and coldest.” There was no other way to explain it. Minnesota weather was winning. She listened patiently and questioned if I had enough quilts to keep the babies warm. I did and was using all of them. Our conversation ended and about an hour later her son and another neighbor showed up complete with chainsaws. They trudged through and around some trees, sized one up and cut it down. When they came in for coffee and cookies they said they had cut one down that was naked of bark. They cut, split it and returned the next day to complete the job.

Later that day as I sat quietly by my own fire, rocking the boys, I vowed never to forget the “silent saints” that gave of themselves to help us. (Such was the farming community. We are interconnected in the tapestry of life and influenced by the people we encounter and the relationships we cultivate.) Hardship is such a teacher.

That tree's old growth roots ran deep and it soldiered on. Fifty two year later it is 75 majestic feet tall with five sprouts joined together with a girth of four feet around it. It had followed the ancient law of life and its heart still beats deep within. I would like to imagine the stories of its golden days that it whispered to the sky. How it adds to the beauty of my life.

Trees are a symbol of life, strength and sustenance that is provided by God.

I believe I am similar to that tree. I can no longer be transplanted and both of us remember the wanting years and the sumptuous years.

“I wondered if the trees were God. They were like God in many respects. They stood silent, and most people only noticed them when the need arose.” Silas House

“Learn character from trees, value from roots and change from leaves.” T. Hameed

“For in the true nature of things, if we rightly consider, every green tree is far more glorious than if it were made of gold and silver” Martin Luther King

Blessed are those that give without remembering and take without forgetting.

MoMo's Message

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 treasurers Art Wheeler or Sarah Dahl, if there are none). You can put cash or checks in these and as long as your name is on it (or treasurers are 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. The treasurers send 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.

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: 701-969-7030. 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!

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 in other cities/states!

Thank You
FOR
GIVING
GENEROUSLY

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Mock-In!

BISMAN 6-12 GRADERS

**Peace Lutheran Church
Friday, September 5,
2025 6-10 pm**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME,
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!**

JOIN US FOR:

- PIZZA
- GAMES
- CRAFTS
- AND FUN!

SIGN UP >>



Calling all 3rd and 4th graders!

You will receive a Bible this fall, so we want to make sure not to miss anyone! Let Pastor or Connie in the office know of the 3rd/4th graders in your family!

Calling all 6th graders!

We are gearing up for confirmation in the fall and again, don't want to miss anyone! Call the church office at 701-223-1001 to let us know your 6th grader will be part of confirmation this fall!

More Fun and Fellowship Coming – Want to Help?

Getting organized for two new opportunities this fall: one will be a “getting together for home dinner” fellowship. And, we haven't had a group especially for seniors in a while. Let's get together for fun, fellowship, excursions, presentations, etc. Would you like to be on a small “steering committee” for either of these? (But only if you like food or fun!) Let Pastor Lisa know!

New Member Class coming in September

We look forward to welcoming new members this fall. The new member class is September 21, with new members being welcomed into LCC Sunday September 28. Let Pastor Lisa know if you're interested!

Current 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!

Short term: A women's group will begin Wednesday, September 24 at 7pm called **Jesus & Women**. Through a series of seven video sessions, Krisiti McLelland will transport us back to Jesus' world in the footsteps of the women who came face-to-face with the Living God. Examine the historical and cultural climate of first century Middle Eastern society to not only understand Jesus more deeply but to fuel your worship of Him today. This study has limited homework as most of the content is covered in the video, or you can dig deeper if you wish. McClelland is an engaging story teller and teacher and the videos themselves are certainly more than enough. There will be a sign-up in the narthex. If you have questions please contact Deb Sargent 701-880-8237

The Men's Bible Study meets at 10 am on Saturdays and looks at the gospel lesson for the next day. Always good discussion!

Current Ongoing Bible/Book Studies:

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.

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!

Scripture Circles is an ecumenical study that moves around each month to different sponsoring churches. It is led by U.S. Jones, a colleague of Rabbi Noah, who led similar studies here a couple of years ago. It is interesting and learning-full. Bring your Bible or Bible app and come to Lord of Life on Thursday, Sept 18. There is a simple dinner at 5 pm; the study begins at 5:45. No cost! A free will offering will be accepted, if you like.

Watch the bulletin and CrossWord for news of shorter term studies!

In the Footsteps of Paul tour coming in April 2026!

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 April 19-29, 2026. We will visit Thessaloniki, Philippi, the amazing Meteora monasteries built on rocks high in the clouds, 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 at eliastours.com; let Pr. Lisa know if you are interested in hearing more about it or know someone who might like to go.

Also: we will be having an interest meeting at 7 pm on Sunday evening, Sept. 28 via zoom with Elias, the head of Elias tours. You can join from here at church, the comfort of your own home, or wherever you happen to be! Let Pr. Lisa know of your interest so she can send you the zoom link for the meeting. Feel free to invite others! This is a great way to get your questions answered by the experts!

Usher Training 11 am Saturday, Sept. 27!

Hello ushers and all who would like to be ushers! We will do a training for you on Saturday morning, September 27th at 11 am – so you men's bible study-ers can come, too! No, we don't think you need training to hand out bulletins and collect the offering. But we would like to talk about facilitating safe exiting for everyone during an emergency, and a quick run through of CPR and first aid, and where supplies are in the church: first aid, fire extinguishers, AED, etc.

Council meetings open to all!

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 next Church Council meeting is September 11 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday Hosts and Dishwashers always needed! Wednesday hosts, too!

Fellowship time after Sunday worship is one of the highlights of the week for many of us. If you haven't stayed yet – 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.

On Wednesdays during the school year, we provide a simple meal, since it can be a dash for worship leaders and families rushing to get here for worship – and great fellowship, too. Often families join together to sponsor a week. It can be a simple crockpot soup and bread, or hotdish; sloppy joes or hot dogs; tacos in a bag, make-yourself-a- sandwich fixins or anything else you dream up. Sign up on the clipboard in the fellowship hall. We generally plan to feed 25-30 people.

Senior Center provides meals for seniors!

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 at 701-255-4648.

Youth! YOUTH!! YOUTH!!!

Confirmation and Church School kick off the program year!

Confirmation orientation will be held Wednesday, September 3, at 7 pm in the Multipurpose Room (smaller fellowship area to the left of the kitchen) for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students, their parents and our small group leaders. See you all there!

Church school will begin on Rally Day, both Sunday, September 7th (during the worship service, after the children's message) and Wednesday, September 10, at 7 pm! Children ages 3-10 are welcome!

Schedules for Confirmation and Church School can be found on our website, churchofthecross.org, under the youth tab!

Middle and High School Mock-In this Friday, Sept. 5! Join youth from all over town at Peace Lutheran in Lincoln this Friday evening from 6-10 pm for Pizza, games, crafts and fun! Everyone grades 6-12 is welcome – bring your friends! See the poster with the QR code in the church or this newsletter to sign up. (You can also just come – but for food planning purposes it helps to register!) There is no cost!

Find Your Balance

This stress management class is being hosted by our neighbors at the UCC church, and you are invited to participate. There is no cost. This monthly offering, held on third Thursdays beginning September 18, goes from 6-7:15 pm at the UCC church. It will be facilitated by Tamara Waters-Wheeler, Ed.S; NCSP and John Sauter, RN, MDiv, and blends practical techniques for stress management with gentle reflection and community connection. Step into a rhythm of calm and renewal as we support one another on life's journey.

Calling All Artists!

Aren't the bulletin boards in the narthex great? It's so interesting to see the creativity and art that different minds come up with! You, too, can be a creator of one of these masterpieces! We change them with the church seasons. Let Connie in the office, or Pastor Lisa know of your interest. We can also purchase materials you need or get you reimbursed for them.

Confirmation Syllabus—Meet in Multipurpose Room

Date	Time	Meeting Type
September 3	7pm Grades 6,7,8, Parents, Students, Leaders	Confirmation Orientation
September 10	7pm	Small Group Night
September 17	7pm	Large Group Night
September 24	7pm	Large Group –Service Project 9th Mentor/Mentee mtg: 5 Promises
October 1	7pm	Large Group– Special Project
October 8	7pm	Small Group Night
October 15		No Mtgs: Fall Break
October 22	7pm	Large Group Night
October 29	7pm	Large Group w/parents
November 5	5:30 pm Soup supper @ St. George's	Taize service @ St. George's Service @ 6:15
November 12	7pm	Small Group Night
November 19	7pm	Large Group Night
November 26		No Mtgs Thanksgiving
December 3	5pm Advent Dinner 6 graders serve	Large Group Service Project
December 10	5pm Advent Dinner 7 graders service	Small Group Night
December 17	7pm	Large Group Night
December 24	Christmas Eve	No confirmation mtgs

Jesus and Me Sunday School and Wednesday School Schedule

Theme: Build Your Relationship with Jesus

Date	Date:	Gospel	Theme/Story
Sept. 7	Sept. 10	n/a	Rally Day Craft
Sept. 14	Sept 17	Luke 15:1-10	Lost Sheep & Lost Coin Blessing of the Back-pack
Sept. 21	Sept. 24		
Sept. 28	Oct. 1	Luke 16:19-31	The Rich Man and Lazarus
Oct. 5	Oct. 8	Luke 17:5-10	Tiny Beginnings
Oct. 12	NO Oct. 15	Luke 17:11-19	Jesus Heals Ten
NO Oct. 19	Oct. 22 only	Luke 18:1-6	The Widow and the Judge
Oct. 26	Oct. 29	Luke 18:9-14	The Pharisee and the Tax Collector
NO Nov. 2	Nov. 5 only	Luke 19: 1-10	Jesus and Zacchaeus
NO Nov. 9			
Nov. 11	TUESDAY	Lefse Making	
Nov. 16	Nov. 19	Luke 21:5-19	God's Love Is Forever
Nov. 23	NO Nov. 26	Luke 23:33-43	Kind on the Cross
NO Nov. 30	Dec. 3 only	Matthew 24:36-44	The Great Commission
Dec. 7	Dec. 10	Romans 15:4-13	Jews and Gentiles
Dec. 14	Dec. 17	Matthew 11:2-11	John's Questions for Jesus
Dec. 21		Christmas Program	



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
September 2025 Altar Focus: Fostering Hope	1 Labor Day Office closed	2	3	4 AA Mtg 8pm	5 Wired Word 1:30pm	6 Men's Bible Study 10am
7 Rally Day 9:00 Practice 10:00 River Worship 11:00 Potluck	8 Needlework Group 9am	9 W & Music committee 7:00	10 Rally Day Book Club 1:30 5pm Potluck 6:15pm Worship Church school/ Confirmation	11 Quilting 1pm AA Mtg 8pm Church council 6:30pm	12 Wired Word 1:30pm	13 Men's Bible Study 10am
14 9:00 Practice 10:00 River Worship Blessing of the Backpacks 11:00 Coffee Hour	15 Needlework Group 9am	16	17 5pm Supper 6:15pm Worship Blessing of the Backpacks Church school/ Confirmation River practice 7pm	18 Gather Bible Study 10:30am Quilting 1pm Scripture Circle @ Lord of Life 5pm	19 Wired Word 1:30pm	20 Men's Bible Study 10am
21 9:00 Practice 10:00 River Worship Celebrating 20 yrs River 11:00 New member Class Coffee Hour	22 Needlework Group 9am Knitting 4 Others 1pm	23	24 5pm Supper 6:15pm Worship No Church school/ Confirmation YES River practice 7pm	25 Quilting 1pm AA Mtg. 8pm	26 Wired Word 1:30pm	27 Men's Bible Study 10am Usher training 11am
28 9:00 Practice 10:00 River Worship New member Sunday 11:00 Coffee Hour 7pm Footsteps of Paul ZOOM	29 Needlework Group 9am	30				31 Men's Bible Study 10am



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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