

From Pastor Lisa

It is true; this CrossWord is late. Apologies for that. Connie is out of the office for a few weeks after having knee surgery – please pray for swift and complete healing as she recovers! (You are invited to sign up for an hour or two to answer the phone and take messages at church. See the clipboard or call the office.) And, I don't know the software we use to create it. So – here is the newsletter in Word format. Let's see how we do! 😊

There is a lot going on – the bulletin is chock full of upcoming events, and it may seem like the announcements in worship go on for a long time! Do take the Sunday bulletin with you when you worship in person, whether on Sunday or Wednesday – so you can pray through the prayer list, and keep track of all the opportunities and events. And feel free to let us know if there is something you'd like to see in the bulletin.

This morning I read a blog that brought me up short (those are generally the best kind). It's called Becoming Minimalist by Joshua Becker. He quoted the author Mitch Albom (known for Tuesdays with Morrie), who said *"Faith is about doing. You are how you act, not just how you believe."*

You are how you act, not just how you believe. And, Josh Becker said, this is true about every aspect of our lives. It's the gap between wanting a healthier life and actually taking a walk, or swim, or bike ride. Between wanting to learn a new skill (instrument or language, say) and actually practicing it. Between wanting to get out of debt and actually adhering to a budget and living within your means.

After contemplating the truth in all this, needless to say, my mind went straight to the spiritual. *"Faith is about doing. You are how you act, not just how you believe."*

What is it that you believe, that we believe? God is love. God pours out mercy and grace on all of creation. We are all God's children. God loves everyone, even when we fail. Jesus died for us, when we were yet sinners. It's not because of anything we've done – it's a free gift from God.

So. How are we living out what we believe?

I hope you'll ponder that with me. But not for long. We are how we act, not just how we believe. Let's act!

Thanks for all you do. God loves you!

Peace.

New Member Sunday

We welcome the new members who joined us this fall! Be sure to get to know them as soon as you can!

Erin Bolinger and Kaija Rozier

Kathy Morrison

Debbie Patterson

Ernie Torpen

Confirmation Sunday

We celebrated with three young men as they affirmed their baptisms on Confirmation/Reformation Sunday, October 26. Congratulate them when you see them!

Sander Sagsveen

Brady Staloch

Frankie Stankiewicz

Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat, held on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 26, was a smashing success. We had 14 “trunks”, great costumes and themes, a few cute dogs, and the Martins brought some race cars as well! We broke through all our goals of 10 trunks, 100 kids and 1000 pieces of candy! (The extra went to Ministry on the Margins to make more people happy!) It was a beautiful October day. Thanks to all who donated candy, all who participated, and especially to Jim and Kay Miller, Krisi and Brandon Kunz, and Glen and Sandy Hyland for organizing the whole shebang. We look forward to next year!

Beer n Hymns – Monday, Nov. 10 from 7-9 pm at Mandan Eagles

What better way to celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther himself? We can certainly sing A Mighty Fortress! Don't worry, you don't have to drink beer. Come, join the crowd in this pleasant venue and sing your heart out accompanied by some fine (and occasionally even funny) musicians. You get to pick the songs!

Pancake and Sausage Breakfast for Camp of the Cross

November 2nd was a great day at church, as we remembered our loved ones who have died on All Saints Sunday, and then enjoyed a pancake and Wishek sausage breakfast benefiting Camp of the Cross. Alea Zeiszler, office manager at CCM, came to greet us and tell us they are currently raising funds to replace the carpeting the retreat cabins, which was installed in the 1990s. A good time was had by all. Thanks to the many who helped, and all who were able to donate. We raised \$2104. We know some of you were unable to be here that day. Rest assured, you may still continue to give to camp, either at church or straight to CCM. Call the office if you need their address, or simply look them up at campofthecross.com.

November Altar Focus: Food and Warm Things!

As you know, with the government shutdown and SNAP on hold, there is an urgent need for food in the system. We have been supporting the Emergency Food Pantry and will continue to do so. They would really appreciate anything that is shelf stable: vegetables, mac and cheese that can be made with water, canned tuna or chicken, soups, instant potatoes, etc. They are serving 70+ families per day, and are also in need of volunteers as some have gone south for the winter and these numbers are overwhelming. Thank you for helping in any way you can! Ask Pr. Lisa if you want more info on the Food Pantry.

We are also collecting snack packs, fruit snacks, crackers/cheese packs and the like for Foster Hope, for school snacks for children.

Also for Foster Hope, they are looking for gently used warm winter items for kids. The basket is also out for hats, gloves, scarves for folks who keep warm at the Public Library. Any other warm items are welcome and we will distribute to agencies who will get them to those in need.

Lefse “Fry Day” Tuesday, Nov. 11 from 1-3 pm!

Yes, we know it's a Tuesday, but c'mon – that's clever. ☺ We're frying lefse!! Whether you're an old hand or brand new at the art; whether you're a lefse lover or have no idea what that is, you are welcome to join in. Kids are off school that day so please bring them to see what all the fun is about. This is a tradition that should be carried on for many more generations, and not just Norwegians! If you have a lefse turning stick or rolling pin, please bring them. We have plenty of griddles.

Scripture Circle on Thursday, Nov. 13th at McCabe Methodist

Some of you participated in a new kind of Bible study with Rabbi Noah a couple of years ago. His colleague, US Jones II, has been leading this transformative method of studying the Bible that is accessible to all. No prior experience or knowledge needed! Scripture Circles have been held each month here in Bismarck, hosted by various churches on the second Thursday. We begin with a light supper at 5:00 pm; the study begins at 5:45 pm. Come for one or both! This month's circle will be hosted by McCabe United Methodist Church, 1030 N. 6th St in Bismarck, on Thursday, Nov. 13th. All are welcome!

Connie's Surgery; Assistance Needed in Church Office

You may have heard that Connie Werner, our church secretary, is out of the office for a few weeks after successful knee replacement surgery. If you have an hour or two here or there, would you be willing to assist by answering the phone in the church office, taking messages, and being a friendly face to greet those who stop in? If so, please sign up on the clipboard near the hallway to the bathrooms, or call the church office to indicate your availability. We appreciate all of you who are willing to fill in, and Sarah Dahl for doing the bulletins!

Heat the Church Calendars available

You will find these calendars in a blue binder on the table near the bathrooms. This is our fun project to let you sponsor a day in honor or memory of someone and help to heat the church, too. Just mark the date, note the amount and memo your check for that purpose. More than one person can sponsor the same day. We appreciate you!

Poinsettia Forms Available

If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone, to help decorate the altar area at Christmas, the forms are available on most tables in the narthex. Please submit them by Dec. 16th. The cost for each plant is \$18.

Cookie Walk Dec. 14th!! Get Your Favorite Recipes Out Now!!

Our annual Cookie Walk will be held on Sunday, December 14th. Get out your favorite recipes and dust off your cookie sheets! We invite you bakers to sign up, as we need at least 10-15 bakers to make a go of this. Bake your goodies and bring them to church (we'll set up the day before, but you can also bring them that morning). Make as many as you want! Folks will then get a container and a glove, and will choose their favorites from the tables of goodies. A free will offering will be taken, with a suggested donation amount per dozen. Volunteers will also be needed to set up on Saturday afternoon, and possibly to assist folks with their choices. Keep watching for more info!

Book Club

The LCC book club, led by our most excellent library curator, Marjo Hewitson, meets the second Wednesday of each month in the library (or larger room, if the crowd necessitates). Come join us! Upcoming book choices are:

November: *The Wine Maker's Wife*, by Kristin Harmel

December: *When Breath Becomes Air*, by Paul Kalanithi

Wednesday Worship in Advent

Come experience Holden Evening Prayer in worship at 6:15 pm on Wednesdays in Advent: December 3rd, 10th and 17th. The theme of these worship services will be "The Power of Yes":

It can be hard to say yes. Even the small yeses in our daily lives these days feel riskier somehow. Decisions about where we put our money, our time, our energy, our confidence, and our faith feel more important than ever during these volatile times. We come from a history of people who said yes. Throughout the story of the people of God, brave and faithful, everyday people said yes to God. In Advent, these yeses are even more significant.

What does it take to get to yes? Why does it matter? Why does it matter that we believe this? This is a story that we tell, that isn't just on a page or in ancient tales, but one that lives in our bones, and calls to us to say our own yes when we are called into what God is doing now.

Wednesday Meals in Advent!

Before our Wednesday worship services in Advent, we serve a meal starting at 5 pm. Come when you can and join in the fellowship! What's even more fun is that we'll do some popular cookoffs:

December 3rd will be our chili cookoff! Bring a crockpot of your favorite recipe. Diners will receive a small bowl and can taste as many as they like. Then, they can vote for their favorite! The winner will get accolades and even a small prize!

Note: you can bring your crockpot the day before, in the morning or at lunch, whatever works for you, and we will make sure they're heated up properly in time for the meal starting at 5.

December 10th will be our knoephla soup cookoff! Same idea, different soup! If you take a poll, you'll soon realize everyone makes it a bit differently, so bring your favorite and share, and you will certainly get to bask in the glow of appreciation from your fellow diners, and maybe win the prize!

Dec. 17th: TBD. Is there another cookoff or food genre you'd like to see or enjoy? Let Pastor Lisa know!

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service Here at LCC

We will host the ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service here at LCC on Tuesday, Nov. 25th at 7 pm. Sister Idelle Badt from Stepping Stone Ministries (which assists people enduring homelessness with health crises) will be the speaker. The offering will go to Stepping Stone, along with in-kind offering of blankets (twin size, for beds there and possibly for folks to take with them when they recover), and food items to help with continental breakfast served each day. The service will be followed by a pie social! If you'd like to help serve pie that evening, please let the office know.