



The Cross Word

April 2026

From Pastor Lisa

O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Ps 8:1 ESV

Isn't spring wonderful? I'm almost convinced winter will stop returning again and again! The rains have everything greening up and soon blossoms will surround us. Crops will soon be planted. Baby livestock are born and growing and frolicking. Rhubarb plants will be unfurling their leaves in the garden. Birds sing to wake us up in the mornings. Crocuses have already bloomed and tulips and daffodils are coming! Rain refreshes the earth and us, too. New life is everywhere, and it's easy to praise God for it.

Some things are coming to an end, too. Some of our young people are graduating from college and high school and headed out on new adventures in life. Other students will be moving to a new grade level and/or school. And summer beckons with its warmth and freedom to do things we can't at other times of the year. Ah, spring!

We will have two opportunities to honor our LCC high school graduates this year, on Sunday, May 17 during 10 a.m. worship; and on Wednesday, May 20, during 6:15 p.m. worship (the last Wednesday worship until the summer outdoor services). Graduating will be Mason Bergrud, Morgan Feigitsch, Parker Feigitsch, Kolton Harris, Mackenna Hocker, Kambree Long, Fynn Sagsveen, Ruby Stankewicz, Sylvia Taylor and Ali Volk. We are proud of these young men and women! Please join us as we celebrate their accomplishments.

There are so many ways we can serve and celebrate within and without our church family. Thank you for all you do; for all your generosity to one another, to this church, and to the world. And thanks be to God for this glorious creation!

See you in church,
Pastor Lisa

Notes about the Footsteps of Paul Tour

You have heard me say that 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. A small group of LCCers (Rod and Deb Sargent, Mike and Tracy Geiermann, and Pastor Lisa, along with a couple from the UCC church and 3 others) will leave Saturday for a two week trip to Greece and Turkey, to some of the places where Paul preached and ministered.

The plan is to visit Athens, Santorini, Corinth, Delphi, the Meteora monasteries, Thessaloniki, Philippi and Istanbul, with extra excursions to connected places as well. Please pray for the safety of our travelers, and if you're on Facebook, watch for some photos and updates along the way. We look forward to sharing with you upon our return.

Pastor Sondra Krogstad will be on call for pastoral emergencies and pastoral care while Pastor Lisa is gone. You can reach her at 480-276-2711. If you cannot reach her, please call Pr. Lisa's cell (can be answered abroad) and she will redirect you. You can look forward to Pastor Sondra preaching the weeks of April 19th and May 3rd, and Pastor Steve Sathre preaching on April 26th. Thanks to Pastor Sondra and to Pastor Steve!

Little Free Library in Memory of Gladys Bain

If you've been at church recently, you may have seen the beautiful "Little Free Library" painstakingly made in the shape of a country church, modeled after the one in the Gary Miller painting that hangs in our fellowship hall. (with thanks to Doug and Deanna Johnson for this gift!) Jim Miller has dedicated many, many hours of work to create this beautiful replica church, especially made to hold books. Patsy Schmidt added her artistry to the windows, which appear lit from within. And the Miller's son in law 3D printed some of the parts of the church. Thanks to all of them! This little library will be placed next to the cross-shaped bench outside LCC's front door – a stand has been made and readied by John Kraft and Paul Gurholt. It is in memory of our charter member, Gladys Bain, who was an educator and loved to read. Please stop by and see it!

April Altar Focus: A Baby Shower!

Heart River Bridges of Hope is inviting you to help us meet a need at the Heart River Correctional Center, a women's prison located on the same campus as the Youth Correctional Center. There are currently about 70 women incarcerated at that facility, and a much larger women's prison is under construction on the same campus.

Unfortunately, some of the inmates are pregnant and babies will be cared for by family members or friends during the mother's incarceration. HRCC staff have reached out and asked for help with baby items. Here's the message we received:

We are in need of some baby items as we continue to have pregnant women transferred to our care. We love to be able to send them off with some starter items to help ease the burden of families and to make their pregnancy time feel special. I don't know if the church can assist with any of these, but here are some of our current needs if you are able to help us out:

Newborn diapers (smaller packs are best)

Baby wipes

Baby hygiene items (lotion, baby wash, diaper cream, towels etc.)

Bibs/Burp cloths

Baby socks and onesies

Baby hats/glove sets

Footed snowsuits

Newborn or 0-3 month clothing (especially neutral or for girls).

We still have plenty of receiving blankets and washcloths. We are totally okay with gently used items.

Please contact Pastor Gail Hagerty with questions info requests – pastor.gail@heartriverlutheran.org.

Thank you for the ongoing gifts of quilts and fresh start kit supplies. Our ministry to youth and women who are incarcerated is truly a ministry of the synod and a ministry that touches lives.



May Altar Focus: Mother the Camp!

May is a time when Camp of the Cross is gearing up for summer youth camps. Our altar focus for May is “Mother the Camp” - any items we donate, from toilet paper to stamps to cleaning supplies to food to craft supplies—means less has to go out of the camp budget for these things. So you can have a big impact by bringing one or more items! There are many copies of the long list of items needed in the narthex here at church. We can also email it to you, or mail you a copy—just let us know! If you bring items before the women’s retreaters leave on May 1, those going will take them along. If not, bring them throughout May and we will make sure the items get to camp! Thank you for your generosity to CCM!

Scripture Circle Hosted at LCC on May 14th!

Come share in a transformative method of studying the Bible that is accessible to all! Some of you have experienced this with Rabbi Noah or with U.S. Jones II, but we haven’t mentioned it for a while. Sorry about that! And - LCC will be hosting the last Scripture Circle of the spring, Thursday, May 14. A light supper will be served starting at 5:00 pm with the study beginning at 5:45. (A free will offering will be collected, but the events are free!) No prior experience or knowledge is needed. Bring your Bible, or we have many at church. Scripture Circles will be led by U.S. Jones, II. We are hoping he can be with us over the summer as well – stay tuned!

Intergenerational Mother-Daughter Tea May 9th!

Please note: There will be no “Connections” event this month!

No Connections gathering this month with our Community Health Nurse, Tracy, but instead we will host an event we haven’t done in a while: A Mother-Daughter Tea! Think tablecloths and china and dainties and tea or other fancy drinks! The twist is: not just mother-daughter combos are allowed – not everyone has a daughter or granddaughter, or has one nearby. So! Borrow your neighbor’s, or bring a friend! All ages of women and girls are welcome. We will gather at 2 pm the day before Mother’ Day – Saturday, May 9th. Our speaker will be Karen Thompson, the mother of John Thompson, who some of you will remember lost both his arms in a farming accident some years ago and is an inspirational figure, himself. She will talk about what it was like as a mother to experience that, and how her faith is what got her through it. We will wrap up our lovely time together by 4 pm. Come join us! Dress up if you like, but that is not at all necessary!

Synod Assembly Gathers in Watford City May 29-31

Our Western North Dakota Synod gathers in assembly each year. This year the synod assembly will be in Watford City May 29-31, and our voting members from LCC are Lillian Crook, Kathy Morrison, synod attorney and parliamentarian Murray Sagsveen, and Pastor Lisa. Bishop Craig Schweitzer has just let the synod know that he is taking a position with the ELCA Churchwide organization, as executive director of Christian Community and Leadership. Since this is a bishop election year, we will be electing a new bishop at this assembly! Bishop Craig will continue to serve as our bishop through July 31, and the new bishop will take office August 1. Please pray for our voting members and for all discerning a call to serve as bishop of Western North Dakota Synod!

Stock Up for Summer Reading at LCC!

If you're part of the LCC book club, you already know we have some curious and voracious readers in our congregation, and a wonderful well-read librarian and leader in Marjo Hewitson! Summer is a great time to read some good books, and boy, do good books abound! We will put up a table or two in the narthex during May, and invite you to bring some books to share or swap! Any extras will be shared with the public library for their book sale. Come and share yours and pick out others to take home with you!

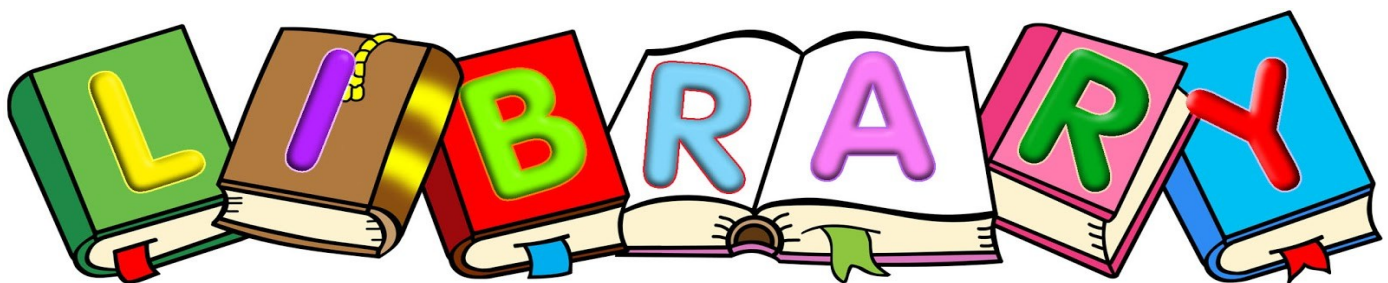
Book Club Choices: Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 1:30pm in the Library.
Led by Marjo Hewitson followed by her fearless readers.

May—The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

June—Wild Dark Shores by Charlotte McConnaghy

July—Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid

August—Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell



Volunteer Opportunities Abound!

Worship: It takes many of us to keep our worship and church life humming! If you are looking for easy ways to jump in and help, sign up to be an usher, communion server, or scripture reader for Sunday worship. Sign up on the clipboard on the round table near the bathrooms, or call the office 223-1001 and let Connie know when you're available in April and May! We are always looking for new folks interested in the production side of worship: sound, livestream or projection. Let us know if you'd like to learn more!

Coffee, meals: We also need upcoming coffee hosts for after worship on Sundays - and dishwashers - as well as a few more Wednesday evening meal hosts (for 20-25 people; needs to be ready at 5 pm). Sign up on the clipboards on the table near the coffee pots in the fellowship hall.

Clean up night: On Wednesday, May 6th, the confirmation students will be doing a large group service project, cleaning up flower beds and neatening up the church grounds. You are welcome to join in! Bring gloves and a rake, if you like. Small indoor projects will also be available if you prefer!



All Women (young or older) LCC members and friends

Topic: **Peace with Nature Devotionals** and enjoy the camp setting!

All are welcome to join us for: **THE WOMEN'S RETREAT:** scheduled for May 1 & 2, 2026 at Camp of the Cross. Costs: full weekend of staying 1 night including 2 meals on Saturday will be \$85.00 or if you come for Saturday only the cost will be \$40.00 (including meals). Questions? Please call Sally at 701.390.3049 or email sally-grenz@hotmail.com to let her know you are coming. Send payment to LCC with Women's Retreat on the memo line. Please RSVP to Sally Grenz by April 20th!

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1 5p Supper 6:15 L. Water 7p Church School Confirmation River Practice</p>	<p>2 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> First Communion 7pm</p>	<p>3 Good Friday Tenebrae 7pm</p>	<p>4 Men's Bible Study 10 am</p>
<p>5 Easter 8am Service 9am Brunch 10am River</p>	<p>6 Stitching 9am</p>	<p>7 Connections 2-4pm Church Council Council 6:30pm</p>	<p>8 Book Club 1:30 5p Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Confirmation</p>	<p>9 1p Quilting</p>	<p>10 1:30 Wired Word</p>	<p>11 Men's Bible Study 10 am</p>
<p>12 9a R.Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water</p>	<p>13 Stitching 9am</p>	<p>14 The Chosen Bible Study "Reckoning" 5pm</p>	<p>15 5p Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Confirmation River practice</p>	<p>16 10:30 Gather Bible Study 1p Quilting</p>	<p>17 1:30 Wired Word</p>	<p>18 Men's Bible Study 10 am</p>
<p>19 Greece Trip 9a R.Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water</p>	<p>20 Greece Trip Stitching 9am</p>	<p>21 Greece Trip</p>	<p>22 Greece Trip 5p Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Confirmation River practice</p>	<p>23 Greece Trip 1p Quilting</p>	<p>24 Greece Trip 1:30 Wired Word</p>	<p>25 Men's Bible Study 10am</p>
<p>26 Greece Trip 9a R.Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water</p>	<p>27 Greece Trip Stitching 9am</p>	<p>28 Greece Trip The Chosen Bible Study "Beyond Mountains"</p>	<p>29 Greece Trip 5p Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Confirmation River practice</p>	<p>30 Greece Trip</p>	<p>Greece Trip</p>	<p>Greece Trip</p>



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