



The Cross Word

September 2026

From Pastor Lisa

None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. Romans 8:28, The Message translation
Fall is here! This feels amazing to me, partly because school seemed to 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

Come Celebrate Art Wheeler's 90th Birthday Sept. 6!

After worship this Sunday, September 6th, come join in wishing our long time treasurer a happy birthday and enjoy some birthday cake to help him celebrate 90 years!

Rally Days Are Here Again!

Rally Sunday (welcome back from summer, everyone!) will be September 13th, with worship – including blessing of the backpacks for kids - followed by a potluck dinner and fellowship. Kids can also do a Rally Day craft project.

Rally Wednesday will kick off with a potluck meal at 5 pm (come when you can!), followed by worship - including blessing of the backpacks for kids - at 6:15, and confirmation orientation/Rally Day craft for church school students at 7 pm.

Kids Corner Continues

Tuesdays from 9-10:30 a.m., parents with babies and/or toddlers are invited to Church of the Cross for some time with other parents and young children! Eve Kath coordinates these playtime get-togethers. Friends and neighbors are welcome!

New Member Class Coming Up

Are you interested in joining Lutheran Church of the Cross or hearing more about it, or know someone who might? We will be having a new member class on Sunday, September 27 after worship, and welcoming new members on Sunday, October 4th. If you'd like to join but can't be here the 27th, just let Pastor Lisa know and we'll find another time to talk through it!

Bible Studies – you are welcome to join in!

Men's Bible Study: meets Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room (to the left of the kitchen). Normally the group takes a look at the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday.

Gather Bible Study: meets the third Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the library. We use the study from the Gather magazine (ELCA Lutheran Women's magazine), which comes out quarterly. A couple of copies are always available on the table in the library, or you are welcome to subscribe to this terrific magazine yourself. Join us!

Wired Word: meets Fridays at 1:30 p.m. in the conference room across from Pastor Lisa's office. This study is sent out Thursday afternoons via email, and connects one or more current events with Scripture. On Sept 4 and 11 we will discuss a special topic: the reconsideration of the 2009 ELCA statement on sexuality. Feedback on this study is due by the end of this month. Pastor Lisa can provide you with a copy if you'd like to join us. For weekly sessions, let Pastor Lisa know you'd like to be on the list. She'll send you the lesson via email each week, and you are free to join us whenever you can!

Wednesdays at Church of the Cross

We begin our busy Wednesday evenings with a meal at 5 p.m. – very helpful for the worship team and for busy families rushing to get to kids picked up and fed before worship and evening activities. Worship follows at 6:15, led by our Living Water worship team, and church school and confirmation take place at 7 p.m. If Wednesday evenings fit your schedule better than Sunday mornings, you are welcome to join in!

Upcoming Youth Items of Interest!

Third-Fourth grade Bibles: LCC gives each third grader their own Bible. (Or in fourth grade if your child has not yet received one) These will be given out on Sunday, November 1 and Wednesday, November 4 at worship, with a “get-to-know-your-Bible” session for students and their parents after worship. Let Pastor Lisa know if you have a 3rd or 4th grader so we can order the proper number of Bibles, or if your schedule prevents you from being here those days.

Church School begins on Wednesday, Sept. 16 and Sunday, Sept. 27! See schedule included in this newsletter.

Confirmation for 6th, 7th, 8th graders begins with orientation on Wednesday, September 16th! Parents, please come too. Small group leaders will touch base with their groups, as next week is already small group time, and Pastor Lisa will go through the calendar and syllabus and answer questions. We are soon off to a great year.

September Youth Mock In All 6th-12th grade youth are invited to come to a Middle and High School Mock-in on Friday, September 18 from 6-10 pm at Peace Lutheran Church in Lincoln (3310 66th Street, Lincoln, ND 58504). There will be pizza and games and a devotion. Register using the QR code in this newsletter or on the wall at church. Friends are welcome! This event is put on by the youth ministries of various churches in the Bismarck-Mandan area and is FREE! Come and join in the fun.

Is Hospitality Your Gift? Do You Cook or Bake?

Some of us show love by sharing food. And many of us enjoy receiving love this way and the fellowship that comes with it! If you'd like to bake or purchase cookies or other treats and host coffee fellowship time after Sunday worship, please sign up on the clipboard near the coffeepots.

If you'd like to provide a meal at 5 pm on a Wednesday (for about 25 people), please sign up on the clipboard provided for that in the same area. These meals are generally simple: sloppy joes and chips, mac and cheese and hot dogs, stroganoff, tacos in a bag, chili, etc. They don't need to be elaborate, but are such a help to busy families and our worship team!

September Altar Focus: Birthday Care Kits

This month's altar focus we will put together birthday kits for families with foster kids. These items are being collected by the organization Foster Hope. Please bring the below listed items (we will assemble kits and deliver to Foster 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

Life is Change

Drop in Group Support for Life's Transitions

facilitated by Dn. Beth Anderson, certified grief & end of life coach.



Whether you recently lost a loved one or need support when grief wells up over a past loss, you are welcome here.

Join us the first Sunday
of the month.

September 6

October 4

November 8

December 6



Centered Growth
Coaching

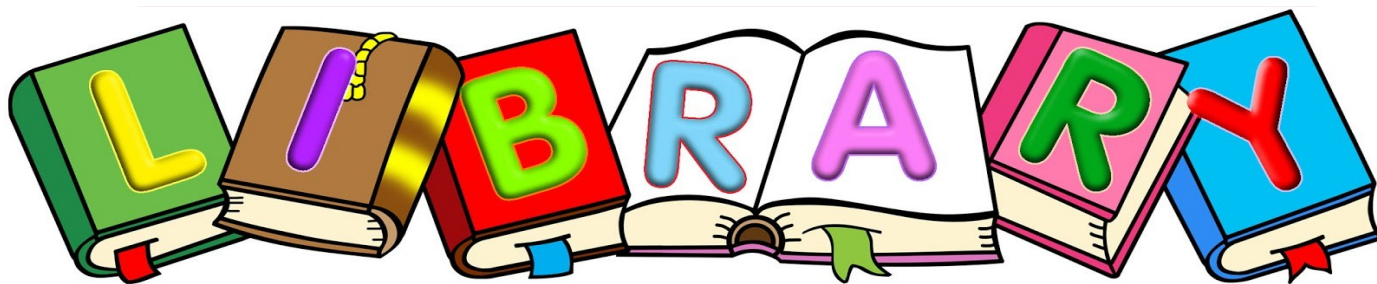


CenteredGrowthCoaching.com



701-979-3555

5 pm at
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
(1143 N 26th St, Bismarck)



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

September— The Music of Bees by Eilene Graven

October— The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell by Robert Dugoni

November—The Book Club for Troublesome Women by Marie Bostwick

December— A Happier Life by Kristy Harvey

January—The Things We Never Say by Elizabeth Strout

Financial Peace University

Take control of your money with Financial Peace University! This nine-week class uses biblical wisdom and common-sense strategies to help you budget, pay off debt, and build wealth for your future.

- Start Date:** October 4 at 5:30 PM

- Cost:** \$80 per family (*Scholarships available for completing all 9 weeks!*)

- Childcare:** Free childcare provided

Sign up at the Volunteer Table in the entryway or speak with Eve Kath for more details. Open to members and non-members.

"Connections"

Friends! Our "Connections" event for September, coordinated by our Faith Community Health Nurse, Tracy Geiermann, will be this Tuesday, September 1 at 2 pm! Come share some treats and coffee and enjoy time with others as we decorate some pumpkins and fall decor for the church. Everything will be provided; come and join us! Friends and neighbors welcome, too!

Quilting

Quilting will start for the year Thursday, September 24 at 1:00 pm. Although the group is small in numbers they are mighty in producing quilts for Lutheran World Relief, our high school graduates and other locally in need of a quilt. Come join the group, have fun learning a new skill and enjoy the fellowship of other generous people. Coffee and goodies end the day. You'll find they are good bakers too!

2026-2027 Church School Schedule Sunday Schedule

Date	Gospel	Theme / Story	Story Leader
Sep. 13	Blessing of the Backpacks and Rally Day Craft in class		
Sep. 20	No Church School		
Sept 27	Matthew 21:23-32	The Chief Priests	
Oct. 4	Matthew 21:33-46	Rejection in the Vinyard	
Oct. 11	Matthew 22:1-14	The Wedding Banquet	
Oct. 18	Matthew 22:15-22	A Question About Taxes	
Oct. 25	No Church School		
Oct. 31	Trunk-or-Treat 3-4pm @LCC		
Nov. 1	Matthew 5:1-12	The Beatitudes	
Nov. 8	Matthew 25:1-13	Ten Bridesmaids	
Wednesday, Nov. 11	Lefse Making		
Nov. 15	Matthew 25:14-30	The Parable of the Talents	
Nov. 22	Matthew 25:31-46	Sheep and Goats	
Nov. 29	No Church School		
Dec. 6	Mark 1:1-8	John the Baptist	
Dec. 13	Christmas Program during the 10am service		
Dec. 20	No Church School		
Dec. 27	No Church School		
Jan. 3	No Church School		
Jan. 10	Mark 1: 4-11	Jesus' Baptism	
Jan. 17	No Church School		
Jan. 24	Mark 1:14-20		
Jan 31	Mark 1:21-28	Healing in the Synagogue	
Feb. 7	Mark 9:2-9	The Transfiguration	
Feb. 10	Ash Wednesday		
Feb. 14	No Church School		
Feb. 21	Mark 8:31-38	Jesus Predicts his Death	
Feb. 24	Bible Fundamentals for 5 th Graders - Class #1, 7pm		
Feb. 28	John 2:13-22		
Mar. 7	No Church School		
Mar. 10	Bible Fundamentals for 5 th Graders - Class #2, 7pm		
Mar. 14	John 12:20-33	Jesus Predicts his Death, Sacrifice	
	Peep Diorama Day after church		
Mar. 21	Mark 14:1—15:47	Mark's Holy Week	
	Easter Egg Hunt after church		
Mar. 25	1 st Communion @Maundy Thursday		
Mar. 28	Easter Sunday-He is Risen! No Church School		
Mar. 31	Bible Fundamentals for 5 th Graders - Class #3, 7pm		
Apr. 4	John 20:19-31	Doubting Thomas	
Apr. 11	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus Appears to Disciples	
Apr. 18	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd	
Apr. 21	Bible Fundamentals for 5 th Graders - Class #4, 7pm		
Apr. 25	No Church School		
May 2	John 15:9-17	Abide in Love	
May 9	John 17:6-19		
May 16	John 15:26-27	Filled with the Holy Spirit	
	Grad Recognition		
Aug. 8-10	2027 VBS		

2026-2027 Church School Schedule Wednesday Schedule

Date	Gospel	Theme / Story	Story Leader
Sept. 16	Blessing of the Backpacks and Rally Day Craft in class		
Sept. 23	Matthew 20:1-16	The Parable of the Vinyard	
Sept. 30	Matthew 21:23-32	The Chief Priests	
Oct. 7	Matthew 21:33-46	Rejection in the Vinyard	
Oct. 14	Matthew 22:1-14	A Question About Taxes	
Oct. 21	No Church School		
Sunday, Oct. 25	Trunk-or-Treat		
Oct. 28	Matthew 22:34-46	The Greatest Commandment	
Nov. 4	Matthew 5:1-12	The Beatitudes	
Nov. 11	Lefse Making - No Church School		
Nov. 18	Matthew 25:14-30	The Parable of the Talents	
Nov. 25	No Church School		
Dec. 2	Mark 13:24-37	Be Ready	
Dec. 9	Mark 1:1-8	John the Baptist	
Sunday, Dec. 13	Christmas Program		
Dec. 16	John 1:6-8, 19-28	John the Baptist Proclaims	
Dec. 23	No Church School		
Dec. 30	No Church School		
Jan. 6	No Church School		
Jan. 13	Mark 1: 4-11	Jesus' Baptism	
Jan. 20	John 1:43-51		
Jan 27	Mark 1:14-20		
Feb. 3	Mark 1:21-28	Healing in the Synagogue	
Feb.10	No Church School - Ash Wednesday		
Feb. 17	No Church School		
Feb. 24	Mark 8:31-38	Jesus Predicts his Death	
Feb. 24	Bible Fundamentals for 5 th Graders - Class #1, 7pm		
Mar. 3	No Church School		
Mar. 10	John 3:14-21	The Light of the World	
Mar. 10	Bible Fundamentals for 5 th Graders - Class #2, 7pm		
Mar. 17	No Church School - Peep Diorama Day		
Sunday, Mar. 21	Easter Egg Hunt		
Mar. 24	No Church School		
Mar. 25	1 st Communion @Maundy Thursday		
Mar. 31	Mark 16:1-8	The Empty Tomb	
Mar. 28	Easter Sunday-He is Risen!		
Mar. 31	Bible Fundamentals for 5 th Graders - Class #3, 7pm		
Apr. 7	John 20: 19-31	Doubting Thomas	
Apr. 14	John 10:11-18	Jesus Appears to Disciples	
April 21	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd	
Apr. 21	Bible Fundamentals for 5 th Graders - Class #4, 7pm		
April 28	No Church School		
May 5	John 15:9-17	Abide in Love	
May 12	John 17:6-19		
May 19	John 15:26-27	Filled with the Holy Spirit	
	Grad Recognition		
Aug. 8-10	2027 VBS		

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.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE NEPAL FLOODING

SUMMER 2026 [ELCA.org/disaster](https://elca.org/disaster)

Communities in Nepal are facing catastrophic loss after deadly, devastating floodwaters swept through the Himalayas. Many have died, homes have been destroyed, and entire communities are struggling to access basic necessities.

Lutheran Disaster Response has long-standing relationships with trusted partners throughout Nepal. With your help, we stand ready to support emergency relief and long-term recovery through these established partners who know their communities best.

Yes, I want to help! Your gifts enable this church to provide fast and effective support to communities in need and to remain for as long as recovery takes.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Will you give today to provide critical aid in these early days and, crucially, in the months and years to come?

Give through your congregation or make your check out to the ELCA, write “Lutheran Disaster Response” on your check's memo line and send to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-800



Lutheran
Disaster Response



WND Women of the ELCA

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Mar 15 • 

Save the Dates

TO 23-24

Women's Retreat 2026

Join us for our **Combined Western ND Women of the ELCA Convention & Women's Retreat** at CCM this fall!

You can come to the day of only programming on Oct 24th for \$60.

Or you can come on *Friday evening on Oct 23rd* for some additional activities for \$100 (lodging and meals included).

Women of the **ELCA** 

CAMP
of the  CROSS
Ministries



PEACE LUTHERAN
Church of Lincoln

BISMARCK / MANDAN

MIDDLE SCHOOL &

HIGH SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER

18

MOCK-IN

6-10PM

FREE
EVENT



BRING A
FRIEND!

- GAMES
- PIZZA
- DEVOTIONAL

September 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Kids Corner 9- 10:30	2	3	4 1:30 Wired Word	5 Men's Bible Study 10 am
6 9a R. Practice 10am River Service 11am Coffee	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8 Kids Corner 9- 10:30	9 Book Club 1:30	10 Church Council 6:30 pm	11 Men's Bible Study 10 am
13 Rally Day 9a R. Practice 10am River Service Church School Craft 11am Potluck	14 Stitching 9am	15 Kids Corner 9- 10:30	16 Rally Day 5pm Potluck 6:15 Living Water Service 7 Confirmation Church School Craft River practice	17 Gather Bible Study 10:30am	18 Men's Bible Study 10 am
20 9a R. Practice 10am River Service No Church School 11am Coffee	21 Stitching 9am	22 Kids Corner 9- 10:30	23 5 pm Meal 6:15 Living Water Service 7 Confirmation Church School River practice	24 Quilting begins 1:00 pm	25 Men's Bible Study 10am
27 9a R. Practice 10am River Service Church School 11am Coffee	28 Stitching 9am	29 Kids Corner 9- 10:30	30 5 pm Meal 6:15 Living Water Service 7 Confirmation Church School River practice		



1004 E Highland Acres Rd
Bismarck ND 58501

701.223.1001
churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

E-News

Worship Times:

Wednesday Worship
Living Water Service
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

Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts