Lutheran Church Of The Cross



November 2026

CrossWord

From Pastor Lisa

It's November – almost time for Thanksgiving! And so much for which to be thankful. 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 or newsletter.

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!

John, Davonne and Noura Eldredge

April Garber

Carol Arntson (who has moved back from Watford City after a few years away!)

Confirmation Sunday

We celebrated with five young women (and their small group leader, Jean Kraft) as they affirmed their baptisms on Confirmation/Reformation Sunday, October 25. Congratulate them when you see them!

Keira Collins

Annabelle Ellison

Morgan Hocker

Libby Martin

Nora Nelson

Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat, held on Halloween afternoon, was a smashing success. We had several “trunks”, great costumes and themes, a few cute dogs, and the Martins brought the little Legend race cars as well! A brisk business was done in hot chocolate and hot apple cider as well. It was a beautiful October day. Thanks to all who donated candy, all who participated, and especially to Heather Martin and her family for organizing the whole shebang. We look forward to next year!

Beer n Hymns – Monday, Nov. 16 from 7-9 pm at Bismarck Eagles

What better way to celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther himself (which was on November 10)? We can certainly sing A Mighty Fortress! Don’t worry, you don’t have to drink beer – beverages for all ages and all desires are available.

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!

** Please notice we have moved from the Mandan Eagles to the Bismarck Eagles Club this year – find it at 26th Street & Rosser!**

November Altar Focus: Food and Warm Things!

As you likely know, there is an increasing 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. Proteins are especially welcome.

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 or Jim or Kay Miller if you want more info on the Food Pantry.

Also, Bridges of Hope has let us know of their urgent need for women's winter coats, for women who are being released from prison. Larger sizes, XL to 3X, are especially needed. (If there are none, women are being released with just a couple of sweatshirts and told to layer them.)

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.

Second Annual Lefse "Fry Day" Wednesday, Nov. 11 from 1-3 pm!

Yes, we know it's a Wednesday, 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.

There is a signup in the narthex; but if you are inspired that day, just come! Everything needed will be provided.

Missouri Slope Veterans Tribute Event and Garden Fundraiser Nov. 10

Come enjoy a delicious burger or brat fundraiser, $10 per meal at our Butler Bistro in our N. Washington campus on Tuesday, Nov. 10th, from 10:30 a.m. til 6:00 p.m. This fundraiser will support the creation of a Veterans Tribute Garden along the Wellness Pathway. The garden will provide an opportunity where residents, families and visitors

can reflect, remember, and honor those who have served. Missouri Slope is honored to be authorized as a Veterans' care facility.

No Longer Hidden Homeless Event Nov. 18

This is an event to raise awareness of the local youth homelessness issue. Last year alone, 394 students in the Bismarck Public School System were identified as homeless. We want to make a difference by gathering people to stand in representation of those identified. We will take a picture of the people present by creating the number 394 with lights. All are welcome!!

Where: Century High School – Olson Gym (Please enter through door 22 – just north of the main gym doors – there are other events going on in the commons area.)

When: Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.

More Info: Sherrice Roness, BPS homeless liaison 323-4051 or Sherrice_Roness@bismarckschools.org

United Way "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" Event Nov. 18 – noon til 1 p.m.

Come to the Center for Opportunity – 1140 S. 12th Street in Bismarck – to walk together to raise awareness of homelessness. There will be a tour and lunch to follow. For more details, scan the QR code on the poster in the narthex, or contact Rachel Lee, Volunteer and Events Coordinator at 701-255-3601 or rlee@msaunitedway.org

Youth Mock-In "Woven Together By God" November 20

6th through 12th graders are invited and encouraged to bring friends to this event, to be held at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 1143 N. 26th Street in Bismarck on Friday, Nov. 20th from 6-10 p.m. Scan the QR code on the poster at church to register or contact Pastor Lisa. Dinner will be served! Games, crafts and a devotion will all be part of this fun evening!

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Legacy United Methodist Church

The ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 24th at 7 pm at Legacy United Methodist Church, 4600 Durango Drive. It will be followed by a pie social. Our speaker will be Fr. Tom Graner of CATCH ND (Communities Acting Together for Change and Hope), a nonprofit organization in North Dakota that works as a private sponsorship organization to welcome foreign-born families and refugees into rural communities.

Wednesday Worship in Advent

Come experience Holden Evening Prayer in worship at 6:15 pm on Wednesdays in Advent: December 2nd, 9th and 16th. This lovely sung liturgy is a joy to experience. Come for supper and stay for worship!

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 2nd 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 lunchtime, whatever works for you, and we will make sure they're heated up properly in time for the meal starting at 5 p.m.

December 9th 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. 16th: Mac and Cheese cookoff! (And also Beef Barley Soup) A new cookoff! Who knew there are so many varieties of Mac n Cheese? This has been requested for a couple of years, so this is your chance to bring your favorite and let others try it, too! Soup and possibly hot dogs? (Let Pastor Lisa know what you like to eat with your mac n cheese) will also be provided.

***There will be no service on Wednesday, Dec. 23rd; but Christmas Eve services will be held on Thursday the 24th at 5 and 10 p.m.!**

Pancake and Sausage Breakfast for Camp of the Cross Dec. 6th!

Hurray!!! It's time for our annual Pancake and Wishek sausage breakfast for Camp of the Cross (and for our tummies)! Pastor Michon Weingartner, Director of Retreats for Camp of the Cross Ministries, will be here with us to give us an update on all things camp. Let the church office know if you have a Thrivent action teams grant available to help pay for the sausage – or if you would like to help in the kitchen! We'll kick off December right with this enjoyable event!

Cookie Walk Dec. 13th!! Get Your Favorite Recipes Out Now!!

Our annual Cookie Walk will be held on Sunday, December 13th. 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!

Christmas Church School Program Dec. 13th!

It may seem early, but the way the school calendar lands, we are not sure we'll have enough participation on the 20th. So the 13th it is! The program will take the place of the sermon in the Sunday service – be sure to bring the grandparents! There will be lots of sweets from the cookie walk to enjoy after the service.

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

Anyone is welcome to attend. Led by Marjo Hewitson followed by her fearless readers.

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