

Lutheran Church of the Cross
1004 E Highland Acres Rd.
Bismarck ND 58501

Phone: 223-1001

Website: www.churchofthecross.org

Office Hours: 8a-4p Monday—Thursday; 8 to noon Friday

Summer Hours: Mon– Fri. 8:00am–noon

Staff:

Lisa Ahlness, **Pastor**

Cell: 220.9011 / lisaahlness@hotmail.com or
lccpastor@midconetwork.com

Connie Werner, **Secretary** cell 400.5852

Office 223-1001 / churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

Art Wheeler, **Treasurer**

527-9582/ lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com

Beth Greff, **Worship Coordinator**

400-2087/ theriver@midconetwork.com

Gerri Sarsten, Eve Kath, Joel and Jan Gilbertson, **Accompanists**

2023 Church Council Members

Mike Humann, President mknhumann@bis.midco.net 527.3376

Janice Martin, Vice President mrladyj2000@gmail.com 471.5600

Jessi Karvo, Secretary jfish321@gmail.com 426.7439

Cherie Krueger, cheriekrueger@gmail.com 226.7514

Mike Geiermann, mgeiermann12@gmail.com 471.5122

Sarah Dahl, sarahdahlmba@gmail.com 226.6844

Scot Long, scotlong@gmail.com 400.2169

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

March 12, 2023

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

"The River" Worship Service

March 12, 2023

WE COME TOGETHER

You are invited to sing with the Worship Team as we gather for worship. All songs and worship liturgy will be projected on the screens for your use.

PRELUDE MUSIC

"We Remember, We Believe", "Come As You Are", "Living Water"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 95

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *"Praise the Name of Jesus"*

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Lent Altar Focus – Sweet Deal for CAR

This project will technically continue until Easter – April 9th. Once again, we will be collecting donations for our sister church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Central African Republic (CAR). You can pick up a tube of mini M & M's at the back of the church throughout Lent (although they are quite expensive and can't be sourced locally, so please guide your younger family members in not grabbing multiple tubes). The M & M's are, of course, delicious, and the tube makes a perfect little "bank" – it will hold \$14 in quarters, or rolled up bills or checks, or other change as well. Once you've enjoyed your treat of M & M's, please fill up the tube with your offering of choice for CAR, and drop it in the offering plate. It's so exciting to watch the tubes re- turn!

Your gifts help fund roofs for schools and salaries for teachers, a women's center, motorbikes to help pastors and evangelists travel around the rough territory, and a clinic.

All of these are immensely helpful in a country torn by war. In 2020, we as a congregation were able to send \$1000 to help CAR. In 2021, it increased by 50% to \$1521.86! 2022 saw gifts of around \$1800! How much can we do this year? Thank you for your generosity! There are colorful pamphlets with some information about the CAR on the table in the narthex.

Lenten Soup Suppers and Worship on Wednesdays

Remember that preceding each Lenten Wednesday worship, we have supper together in the fellowship hall starting around 5 pm, with delicious soups prepared by Lady J's, a selection of breads, and desserts. Worship follows at 6:15 pm. We hope you can join us for food and fellowship each week! A free will offering will be taken at the supper to defray expenses.

Our theme for Lenten Wednesdays this year is **Seeking**. This series is founded on questions. Some questions are hopeful and curious. Some feel like a charge or a challenge. Our questions won't necessarily lead to answers, but they can help us find clarity and a new perspective. We are seeking our own calling, the sacred, and how to live as a disciple. We pray approaching all these things will lead to new beginnings, restoration, a wider grace. Hope to see you on Wednesdays this March!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Lutheran Church of the Cross, and to “The River” Blended Worship Service this morning! If you are visiting with us today, please take a moment to sign the guestbook in the narthex.

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

April: Vanishing Half by Brit Bennet

May: Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson

June: We are the Light by Matthew Quick

July: So Long Chester Wheeler by Catherine Ryan Hyde

Lutheran World Relief is trying to provide relief to those in need from the recent earthquake in Turkey. You can give directly at lwr.org/quake or by mailing to **Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061**. Please write "QUAKE" in the memo line.

LCC is need of a **Meals on Wheels Coordinator** for the month of August. Call the office to volunteer.

LCC and its members are called to new areas of stewardship in the next generation, and its endowment fund is the best means to move towards these new frontiers. Talk to one of the Committee members if you have questions.

LCC Women's Retreat April 14 and 15th at Camp of the Cross
We will group at LCC at 4:15 on Friday afternoon and combine rides up to Garrison for dinner then out to the camp. The evening will be relaxing and getting to know each other better, maybe even a movie or two! Spending the night in the Retreat Center Lodge, then Saturday will be filled with Breakfast, discussion, breaks for enjoying the outdoors, snacks, more discussion, and Dinner before heading back to Bismarck.

Cost for overnight \$40. plus meals and Saturday discussion leader \$50. Total \$90 for the weekend. Checks are to be written to LCC, please put Women's Retreat in the memo.

Please contact Sally Grenz for questions and reservations!

sallygrenz@hotmail.com cell 701-390-3049

SONG OF THE DAY *“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”*

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: *“I Love You, Lord”*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: *“Give Me A Grateful Heart”*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Please Stand

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER Spoken

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER *All are welcome*

COMMUNION SONG: *“Just As I Am”*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Please Stand

BENEDICTION Spoken

SENDING SONG: *“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”*

DISMISSAL: *“Living Water”*

(All children are welcome to come to the front and play instruments during the Worship Team’s Postlude song)

Introduction

In today’s gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God’s grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God’s mercy and forgiveness.

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Esther Anderson

Ushers—Steve & Chery Neu, Art Wheeler

Communion Assistants—Melissa Long, Janice Martin, & Mike Humann

Altar Guild—Jean Kraft, Cheryl Neu, Sharon Narum, Joyce Wahl

Faith & Care — Molly & Ken Traynor, Pam & Ron Lee

River Worship Team—

Sound Board Technicians—Terry Grenz, Lavern Hanson

Projection Team— Caden, Kunze, Jace Kunze, Art Wheeler

Streaming Team— Mike Collins, Tom Harris, Mark Kunze, Karen Will

River Singers— Deb Carpenter, Kerry Carpenter, Sally Grenz, Paul Gurholt, Doug Johnson, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Amanda Sagsveen, Gerri Sarsten, John Saylor, Claudia Thompson, Tom Wade, Barb Wilson

Guitarists—Tom Wade, Marin Traynor

Percussionist— Kari Harris

Accompanists—Jan & Joel Gilbertson, Eve Kath, Gerri Sarsten

Prayers, Births, Deaths, Concerns

Please contact Connie in the church office if you have a prayer request, or if you will be entering the hospital and would like a pastoral visit.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

(We encourage you to take this list home and pray for these people.)

For those struggling with health and other concerns:

Maxine Hill, Reece Fischer, Tracy Martinson, Ann Hillesland, Erwin and Linda Marson, Quinton and Arlene Wolff, Gary and LaVonne Hultin, John Behan, Bob Roesler, Josey Hanson, Diane Stotz, Earl Larson, Carolyn Wegerle, Nicole Eckroth, Mary Schuler, Gladys Bain, Nancy Dockter, Lori Marx, Pastor Jerry Erickson, Hattie Martinson, Ed Decker, Brady Staloch, Bishop Craig Schweitzer, Curt Hauff, Carter Weigel, Kerry Carpenter, Mary Ternes, David Marx and grandson, MaryBeth Osborn, Vicky Moser, Wayne Narum, Todd Wood, and Jeff Thomas, Bernice Walton

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones— Berdeal Bergo

WEEKLY CALENDAR of March 12, 2023

Today, March 12:

Church School 9:15am
Worship Service 10:00am
Coffee Hour 11am

Monday, March 13:

Needlework Group 9am

Tuesday, March 14:

Staff Meeting 10:00am

Wednesday, March 15:

Lenten Supper 5:15pm
Living Water Service 6:15pm
Church School 7pm
Confirmation

Thursday, March 16:

Quilting 1:00pm
AA Meeting 7:30pm

Friday, March 17:

Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, March 18:

Men's Bible Study 10:00am

Sunday, March 19:

Church School 9:15am
Worship Service 10:00am
Coffee Hour 11am

Up Coming

Needlework Group March 20, 27 9am

Knitting for Others March 27 1pm

Quilting March 23, 30 1pm

Wired Word March 24, 31 1:30pm

Men's Bible Study March 25 10am

Women's Book Study March 22 9am

Gather Bible Study March 23 10:30am

Theology on Tap March 23 7pm Gideon's Brewery