

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

Phone: 223-1001

Website: [www.churchofthecross.org](http://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](mailto:lisaahlness@hotmail.com) or  
[lccpastor@midconetwork.com](mailto:lccpastor@midconetwork.com)

Connie Werner, **Secretary** cell 400.5852

Office 223-1001 / [churchsecretary@midconetwork.com](mailto:churchsecretary@midconetwork.com)

Art Wheeler, **Treasurer**

527-9582/ [lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com](mailto:lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com)

Beth Greff, **Worship Coordinator**

400-2087/ [theriver@midconetwork.com](mailto:theriver@midconetwork.com)

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

**2023 Church Council Members**

Mike Humann, President [mknhumann@bis.midco.net](mailto:mknhumann@bis.midco.net) 527.3376

Janice Martin, Vice President [msladyj2000@gmail.com](mailto:msladyj2000@gmail.com) 471.5600

Jessi Karvo, Secretary [jfish321@gmail.com](mailto:jfish321@gmail.com) 426.7439

Cherie Krueger, [cheriekrueger@gmail.com](mailto:cheriekrueger@gmail.com) 226.7514

Mike Geiermann, [mgeiermann12@gmail.com](mailto:mgeiermann12@gmail.com) 471.5122

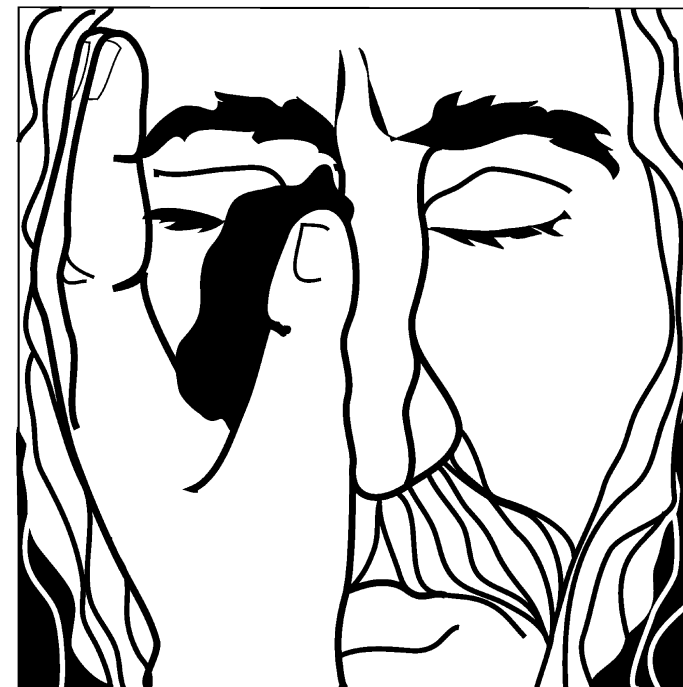
Sarah Dahl, [sarahdahlmba@gmail.com](mailto:sarahdahlmba@gmail.com) 226.6844

Scot Long, [scotglong@gmail.com](mailto:scotglong@gmail.com) 400.2169

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

March 19, 2023

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**March 19, 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**

*“Come As You Are”, “Heart of Worship”, “Living Water”*

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** *“God, Whose Almighty Word”*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*WE HEAR GOD’S WORD*

**FIRST READING:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Psalm 23

**SECOND READING:** Ephesians 5:8-14

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *“Praise the Name of Jesus”*

**GOSPEL:** John 9:1-41

**SERMON:** AJ Marx

Thank you Holly Johnson for volunteering to be the **Meals on Wheels Coordinator** for the month of August.

**LCC Women's Retreat** April 14 and 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sallygrenz@hotmail.com) cell 701-390-3049

**Lent Altar Focus – Sweet Deal for CAR**

This project will continue until Easter – April 9th. 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. It holds \$14 in quarters, or rolled up bills or checks, or other change as well. Drop it in the offering plate. 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**

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!

**Coffee on Sunday?** Who doesn’t love a treat to go with it? Especially if you are of the Scandinavian group. Treat makers and servers are needed. Please sign your name on the dotted line. Sign up sheets for dishwashers, Wednesday meals and treats are all needed.

## 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

**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.**

Due to popular demand, in addition to Peep diorama activities during church school on the 26th and the 29th, the Education Committee is sponsoring a Peep diorama time for kids of all ages on March 26th 11:30am-12:30pm. Supplies will be available and we'll be providing fresh pizza for the diorama builders. Hope you can make it!

### **Your help is needed!**

With the departure of Deacon Janie, the council is requesting the assistance of congregation members to serve on a call committee to hire Janie's replacement. If you are interested in serving on this call committee call Pastor Lisa or any member of the council.

#### **2023 Church Council Members**

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

Janice Martin, Vice President msladyj2000@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, scotglong@gmail.com 400.2169

**SAVE THE DATE!! April 2 Palm Sunday LCC will be having a Palms and Pancake Sunday in support of Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center.**

Wishek's famous sausage and Paul Gurholt's renowned pancakes will be served after the service. Come hungry and leave content knowing the money donated will benefit friends at MSLLC. Volunteers for serving, dishwashing, and food donations are needed. See the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall.

**SONG OF THE DAY** “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

**APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY:** “Just As I Am”

**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:** “Softly and Tenderly”

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Please Stand*

**BENEDICTION** Spoken

**SENDING SONG:** “Shine, Jesus, Shine”

**DISMISSAL:** “Go My Children, With My Blessing”

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

**Introduction** Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. “I was blind, now I see,” declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

## “THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Roger Krueger

**Ushers**—Joel & Suzanne Toso, Roger Krueger & John Kraft

**Communion Assistants**—Ken Will, Mavis Pommerer, 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, 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, Jeff Thomas, Bernice Walton, Mark Meier

**For those dealing with the death of these loved ones**— Berdeal Bergo, Quinton Wolff

## WEEKLY CALENDAR of March 19, 2023

**Today, March 19:**

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

**Monday, March 20:**

Needlework Group 9am

**Tuesday, March 21:**

Staff Meeting 10:00am

**Wednesday, March 22:**

Women's Book Study 9am  
Lenten Supper 5:15pm  
Living Water Service 6:15pm  
Church School 7pm  
Confirmation

**Thursday, March 23:**

Quilting 1:00pm  
AA Meeting 7:30pm

**Friday, March 24:**

Wired Word 1:30pm

**Saturday, March 25:**

Men's Bible Study 10:00am

**Sunday, March 26:**

Church School 9:15am  
Worship Service 10:00am  
Coffee Hour 11am  
Peeps Diorama for all 11:30am

### **Up Coming**

Needlework Group March 27 9am

Knitting for Others March 27 1pm

Gather Bible Study March 30 10:30am

Quilting March 30 1pm

Wired Word March 31 1:30pm

Palms and Pancake Breakfast April 2