

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
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Connie Werner, **Secretary** cell 400.5852

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Beth Greff, **Worship Coordinator**

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

2023 Church Council Members

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

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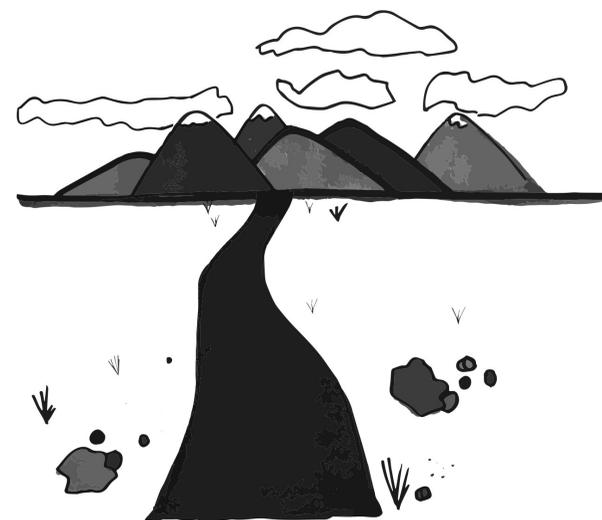
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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

March 5, 2023

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

“The River” Worship Service

March 5 , 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

“All Who Believe and Are Baptized” , “Beautiful Savior”, “Blessed Be the Name of the Lord”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *“We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus”*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 121

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

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

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

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.

The **Men’s Bible Study** group has decided to host a **Movie Night** on Friday, March 10 in the Multipurpose Room. Bring something to share (if you can, but come anyway if you can’t!) for the potluck at 6 pm with movie to start about 30-40 minutes later. There will be popcorn!

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.
March: Remarkable Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt
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.

Gladys Bain celebrated her 95th birthday March 3. Let's shower Gladys with birthday cards. Her address is 3406 Dominion St. Apt 305 Bismarck, ND 58503.

The order blanks for the **Easter flowers** are at the back of the church and in several places in the narthex. Deadline to order is **TODAY!**

The LCC Ministry Endowment Fund provides a means to “live our faith”!

Ken Will, Chairperson...226-5670

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Kerry Carpenter...400-6000

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Pastor Lisa Ahlness...220-9011

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Rita Staloch, Recording Secretary...230-9057

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Cherie Krueger...226-7514

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SONG OF THE DAY “*Blessed Be Your Name*”

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: “*Our God*”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Please Stand

BENEDICTION “The Lord Be With You”

SENDING SONG: “*Lift High the Cross*”

DISMISSAL: “*I Will Call Upon the Lord*”

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

Introduction

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today’s gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God’s love for all the world.

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Myrtice Behan

Ushers— Steve & Cheryl Neu, Mike & Tracy Geiermann

Communion Assistants—Donna Belisle & Myrtice Behan

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, Lisa Robinson, 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 5, 2023

Today, March 5:

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

Monday, March 6:

Needlework Group 9am

Tuesday, March 7:

Staff Meeting 10:00am

Wednesday, March 8:

Book Club March 8 1:30pm
Lenten Supper 5:15pm
Living Water Service 6:15pm
Church School 7pm
Confirmation

Thursday, March 9:

Quilting 1:00pm
Church Council March 9 6:30pm
AA Meeting 7:30pm

Friday, March 10:

Wired Word 1:30pm
Potluck & Movie Night 6pm

Saturday, March 11:

Men's Bible Study 10:00am

Sunday, March 12:

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

Up Coming

Needlework Group March 13, 20, 27 9am

Knitting for Others March 27 1pm

Quilting March 16, 23, 30 1pm

Wired Word March 17, 24, 31 1:30pm

Men's Bible Study March 18, 25 10am

Women's Book Study March 22 9am

Gather Bible Study March 23 10:30am