

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, Beth Greff **Accompanists**

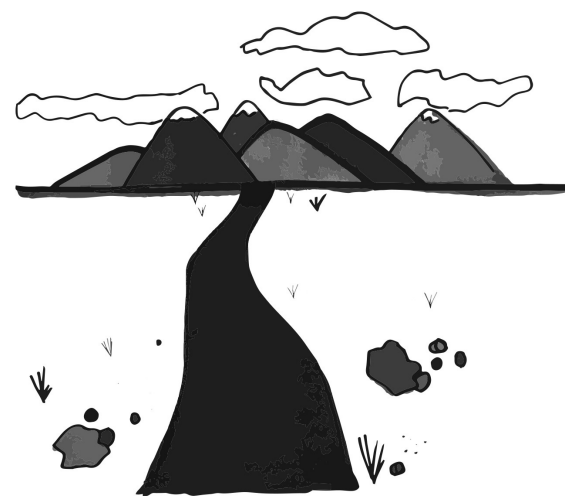
2023 Church Council Members

Mike Humann, President mknhumann@bis.midco.net 527.3376
Janice Martin, Vice President msladyj2000@gmail.com 471.5600
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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
May 7, 2023

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
May 7, 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

“Light of the World”, “Here in the House of the Lord”, “Blessed Assurance”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *“Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!” ELW #380*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Kraft’s Family Stroganoff Jason Kraft

1 1/2 # round steak, cut into strips	1/4 lb. butter
2 lbs. onions, sliced	1 tsp. soy sauce
1 can tomato soup	1 tsp. salt
1 can mushrooms	1/8 tsp. pepper
1 (6 oz.) can tomato paste	1 c. sour cream

Brown steak and onions in butter. Simmer all ingredients, except sour cream, in large stock-pot for 1 hour. Add sour cream and stir gently. Service over hot rice or noodles. Yield: 6—8 servings.

For those of you who are contemplating **joining** Lutheran Church of the Cross Pastor Lisa is planning on having a new member class May 14 at 11:15am in the Conference Room.

Take a look out the front door and see what the Building and Grounds committee has done on behalf of the Bain family. Designed by Brett Gurholt, the **solid wooden cross** offers a place to quietly reflect. Paul Gurholt, Rod Sargent, John Kraft, Curt DeGree, and Mike Humann put this project together. Thank you men. Better yet, instead of looking out the front door, sit down, enjoy the quietness of the place and reflect on God’s loving grace and mercy.

THANK YOU Lutheran Church of the Cross members for your continued support of Missouri Slope and our chapel campaign. Over 100 plates of pancakes and sausage were served on Palm Sunday and over \$3500 was raised. We certainly appreciate your partnership in our ministry and our mission, to enrich lives with love and compassion. Funds raised thru this event will be applied to our ongoing chapel campaign. Our goal is to create a sanctuary where our residents can worship God and enhance their spiritual development. Thank you for helping us inch closer to our goal.

Cathy Anhalt, Development Officer

Delegates are need for the **2023 Synod Assembly** to be held here in Bismarck June 2-4 at the Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center, the old Ramkota on S. 3 St.. The assemblies’ theme is “Welcomed, Called, Included, Equipped.” Please speak to Pastor Lisa or call the church office to volunteer to attend the assembly.

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

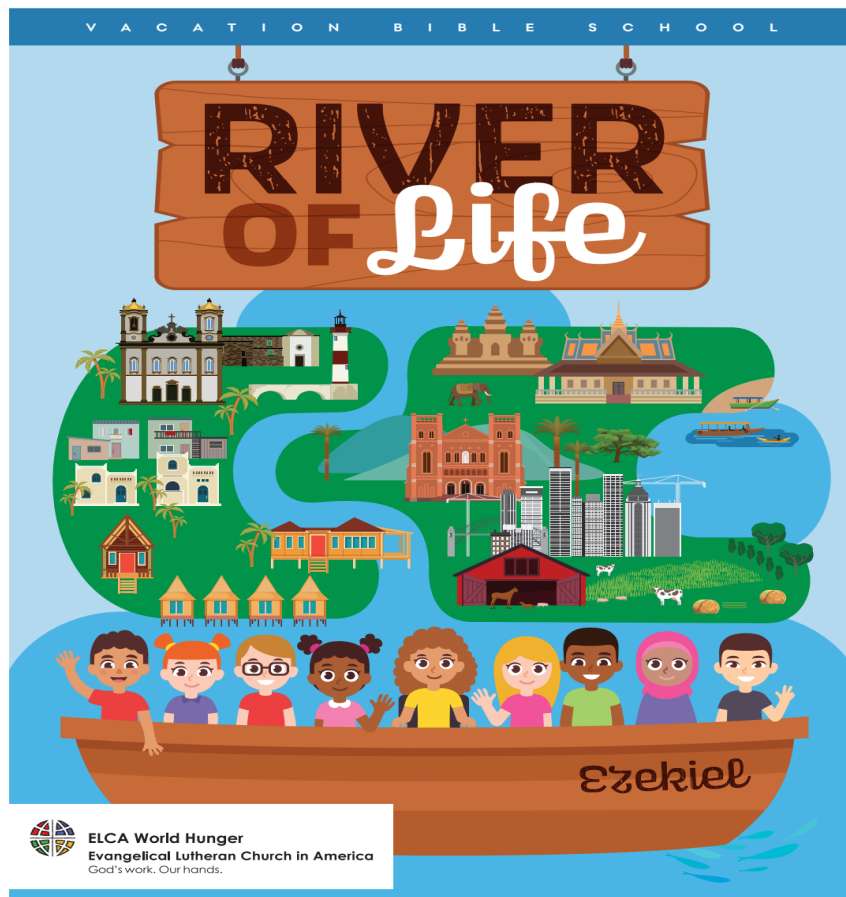
May: Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson

June: We are the Light by Matthew Quick

July: So Long Chester Wheeler by Catherine Ryan Hyde

Camp of the Cross' **Mother the Camp list**, which is May's Altar Focus is available in the narthex. Pick up your copy and shop to your hearts content for them. The list is double sided so check out the back side too. Their summer needs are great. Buy in bulk at your favorite store.

SAVE THE DATES! Vacation Bible School June 4 –7th



Time: 6:00-7:30
(light snack provided) Location:
United Church of Christ
Volunteers are needed.

Location: UCC
Registration information will follow soon. And as always- we will need a couple volunteers to help each evening.
Stay tuned for more detailed information.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

¹In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

²**Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.**

**Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.**

³You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

⁴**take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.**

⁵Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

¹⁵**My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.**

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected

⁸and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *“Fall Like Rain”*

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the w

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.

This **Wednesday, May 10**, we will have a service night to spiff up the grounds at LCC. Come at 7pm or earlier if you like), bring rakes and gloves and any other gardening tools that are helpful to you. We will clean out flower beds, pick up sticks and rake the lawn. If you are not an outdoor person we will have some simple tasks to do inside as well. As this is the last night of church school and confirmation, we invite you to join the students after our work for ice cream sundaes to celebrate the end of the school year. All are welcome, to work and to celebrate this Wednesday!

Quilts Needed - Heart River Bridges of Hope

Heart River Bridges of Hope is in need of quilts. The quilts are used for ministry to residents of the North Dakota Youth Correctional Center and Heart River Correctional Center (adult women). When youth leave the correctional center, they are given a quilt and assured that they are wrapped in God’s love and the love of the church community. Women are given a quilt as they arrive at the correctional center and are permitted to have it in their living space and use it while incarcerated. It’s a reminder that the community cares for them and provides comfort and hope. The women take the quilts with them as they transition back to the community. If your congregation has quilts to donate, please contact Pastor Gail Hagerty -pastor.gail@heartriverlutheran.org or 701-471-2400.

The prayers on the **“Prayer Wall”** easel near the front door have been gathered into a prayer box and will continue to be prayed over. There are pens and post-it notes near the easel for you to add new or ongoing prayer concerns.

Pastor Lisa always says at offering time: “we are so grateful for all your generosity.” And we are not the only ones! Stop and look at all the thank you notes on the bulletin board by the office. There is much gratitude for many actions and donations by LCC, it’s groups and individual members. Thank you for all your generosity!

WEEKLY CALENDAR of May 7, 2023

Today, May 7: Church School 9:15am
Worship Service 10:00am
Coffee 11:00am

Monday, May 8: Needlework Group 9am

Tuesday, May 9: Staff Meeting 10:00am

Wednesday, May 10: Supper 5:15 pm
Living Water Service 6:15pm
Confirmation 7pm
Service Project w/ice cream sundaes
Families welcome!

Thursday, May 11: AA Meeting 7:30pm

Friday, May 12: Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, May 13: Men's Bible Study 10:00am

Sunday, May 14: River Service 10:00am
Coffee 11:00am
New Member Class 11:15am

Upcoming Events:

May 14 Mothers Day
May 18 Theology on Tap Old 10 Bismarck 7pm
May 21 & 24 Senior Recognition
May 24 Women's Bible Study 9am
May 25 Gather Bible Study 10:30am
May 29 Memorial Day

works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

SERMON: AJ Marx

SONG OF THE DAY "I Am the Bread of Life " ELW #485

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: "Offering"

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: "Untitled Hymn"

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Please Stand

BENEDICTION Spoken

SENDING SONG: “The Church’s One Foundation” ELW #654

DISMISSAL: “We Are Marching in the Light” ELW #866

Introduction

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today’s gospel includes Jesus’ promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father’s house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus’ mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.



“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Sally Grenz

Greeters—Larry & Verlaine Jahner

Ushers—Keven & Janice Martin

Communion Assistants— Ruth Jensen,

Altar Guild—Barb Thomas, Cherie Krueger, Sarah Dahl, Kelly Olson

Faith & Care— Peggy & Bruce Hetland, Tracy & Mike Geiermann

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, Tracy Wolf, Marlene Grabow

Guitarists—Tom Wade, Marin Traynor

Percussionist— Kari Harris

Violinist—Fynn Sagsveen

Flutist—Beth Greff

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

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:

Reece Fischer, Tracy Martinson, Ann Hillesland, Erwin and Linda Marson, Arlene Wolff, Gary and LaVonne Hultin, John Behan, Bob Roesler, Josey Hanson, Earl Larson, Carolyn Wegerle, Nicole Eckroth, Mary Schuler, Gladys Bain, Nancy Dockter, Lori Marx, Pastor Jerry Erickson, Hattie Martinson, Ed Decker, Brady Staloch, Carter Weigel, Kerry Carpenter, Mary Ternes, David Marx and grandson, MaryBeth Osborn, Vicky Moser, Wayne Narum, Todd Wood, Jeff Thomas, Mark Meier, Chelsea Sorenson, Jean King

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—

LaVon Hultin, Bernice Steinke