

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

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Art Wheeler, **Treasurer**

527-9582/ lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com

Beth Greff, **Worship Coordinator**

400-2087/ theriver@midconetwork.com

Gerri Sarsten, Joel and Jan Gilbertson, Beth Greff **Accompanists**

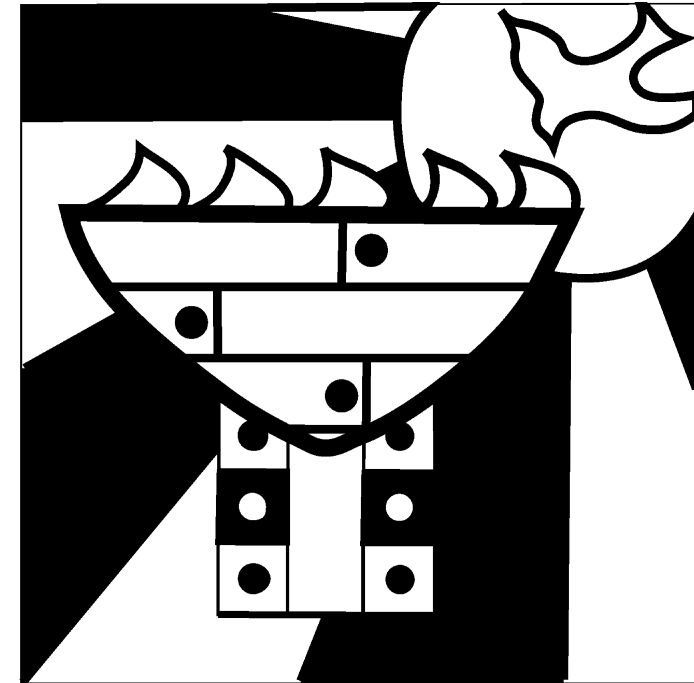
2023 Church Council Members

Mike Humann, President mknhumann@bis.midco.net 527.3376
Janice Martin, Vice President msladyj2000@gmail.com 471.5600
Jessi Karvo, Secretary jfish321@gmail.com 426.7439
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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
May 14, 2023

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

“The River” Worship Service

May 14, 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

“Days of Elijah”, “Down to the River to Pray”, “Old Rugged Cross”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling!” ELW #631*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

Carmel-Fudge Chocolate Cake

Jen Polk

- 1 (18 1/4 oz.) pkg. chocolate cake mix
- 1 c. mini semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 (12 1/4 oz.) jar caramel ice cream topping
- 1 (11 3/4oz.) jar hot fudge ice cream toping
- 1 (8 oz.) ctn. Cool Whip, thawed
- 1/2 c. English Toffee bits

Prepare cake batter according to package directions. Stir in 3/4 cup chocolate chips. Pour into greased 9x13-inch baking pan. Bake at 350⁰ for 35 to 40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Immediately poke holes in the cake with a wood spoon. Warm the toppings, then spread over cake. Cool on a wire rack. Frost with Cool Whip. Sprinkle with toffee bits and remaining 1/4 cup chocolate chips. Store in refrigerator. Yield 12 to 15 servings.

Thank you to all who came and cleaned up the church property! It is greatly appreciated. The outside looks so clean and fresh with the work done.



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

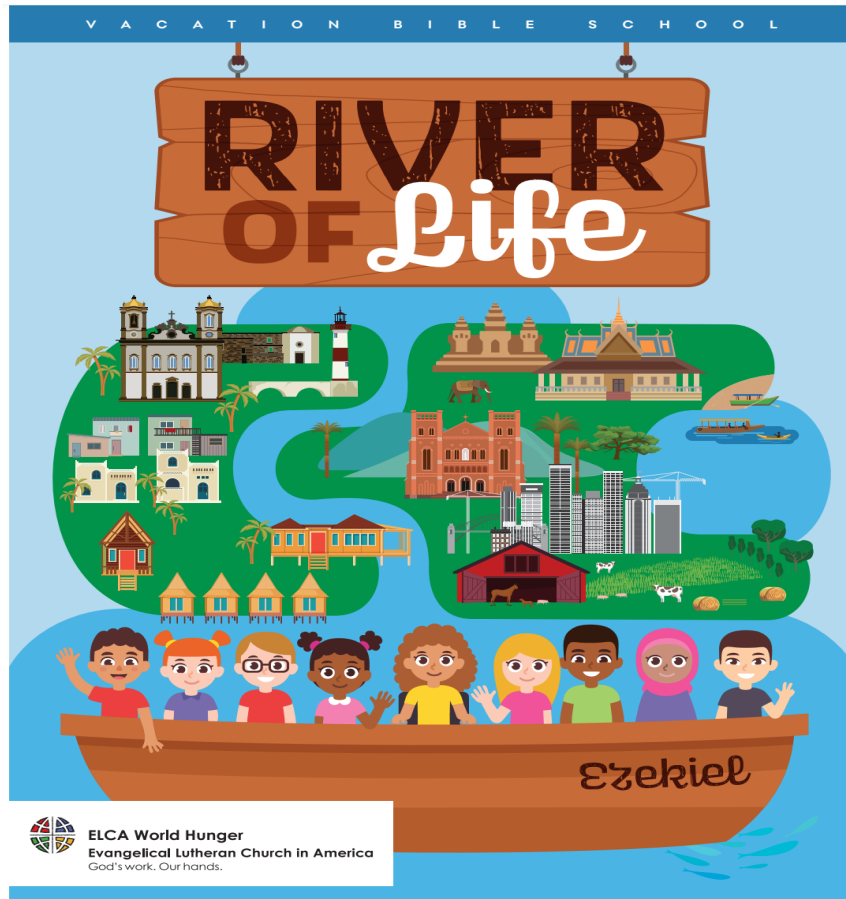
June: We are the Light by Matthew Quick

July: So Long Chester Wheeler by Catherine Ryan Hyde

August: The Prayer Box by Lisa Wingate

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.

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

'For we too are his offspring.'

²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 66:8-20

⁸Bless our God, O peoples,

let the sound of his praise be heard,

⁹**who has kept us among the living,
and has not let our feet slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us into the net;
you laid burdens on our backs;**

¹²you let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;

yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

¹³**I will come into your house with burnt offerings;**

I will pay you my vows,

¹⁴those that my lips uttered

and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings,
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.**

Selah

¹⁶Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for me.

¹⁷**I cried aloud to him,
and he was extolled with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the LORD would not have listened.

¹⁹**But truly God has listened;**

he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

²⁰Blessed be God,

because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Fall Like Rain"

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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.

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

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 14, 2023

Today, May 14: **Happy Mother's Day**
Worship Service 10:00am
Coffee 11:00am

Monday, May 15: Needlework Group 9am

Tuesday, May 16: Staff Meeting 10:00am

Wednesday, May 17: Supper 5:15 pm
Living Water Service 6:15pm
Confirmation 7pm

Thursday, May 18: AA Meeting 7:30pm
Theology on Tap 7 pm Old 10

Friday, May 19: Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, May 20: Men's Bible Study 10:00am

Sunday, May 21: River Service 10:00am
Senior Recognition
Coffee 11:00am

Upcoming Events:

May 21 & 24 Senior Recognition
May 24 Women's Bible Study 9am
May 25 Gather Bible Study 10:30am
May 29 Memorial Day

SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY "Children of the Heavenly Father" ELW #781

APOSTLES' CREED

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

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: Special Music "When My Momma Prays" Gerri Sarsten

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER *Please Stand*

BENEDICTION Spoken

SENDING SONG: "Now Thank We All Our God" ELW #839

DISMISSAL: "Build Your Kingdom Here"

Introduction

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.



“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Lyndsey Hoffer

Greeters—Mike & Tracy Geiermann

Ushers—Alex Spilman & Lee Jensen, Art Wheeler & John Kraft

Communion Assistants—Ken Will, Mike Humann, Mavis Pommerer

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 Sayler, 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, 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 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, Kacy Toso and family

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—

LaVonne Hultin, Bernice Steinke, Bernice Walton