

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

Phone: 223-1001

Website: www.churchofthecross.org

Winter Hours. Mon.– Thursday 8–4pm Fri 8 to noon

Summer Office Hours: Mon.- Fri. 8:00 am—noon

Staff:

Lisa Ahlness, **Pastor**

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Connie Werner, **Secretary** cell 400.5852

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

2023 Church Council Members

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

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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
October 1, 2023

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
October 1, 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

“My Lighthouse”, “All Is Well”, “Come, Now Is the Time to Worship”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *“All Hail the Power of Jesus Name” ELW #634*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their

Your **Endowment Fund Committee** will be hosting a brunch, in the fellowship hall, following the service on Nov. 5th. There is no cost to attend and Committee Members will be available to answer questions regarding LCC’s Endowment Fund. Please join us as we say thank you to all who support LCC.

A contribution to the Endowment Fund is an amazing gift that is never used up. Your gift is added to the balance of the Fund, and the Fund grows. As the Fund grows, the annual distribution increases, enabling the ministries of Lutheran Church of the Cross to increase. And far into the future, when we can’t know what the appropriate ministries will be, the future church leaders will make decisions based on current needs, and your gift will be part of that future ministry. After other gifts have been expended, the Endowment Fund continues to provide a reminder of the faith and witness of its donors.

Ken Will, Chairperson
Art Wheeler, Financial Secretary
Rita Staloch, Recording Secretary
Kerry Carpenter
Cherie Krueger
Lisa Ahlness
Alex Spilman

Christian Adoption Services (CAS) is hosting its first Family Fun Day Event in Lincoln. we hope this event will bring awareness to our organization and the important role it serves in the state. Our non-profit agency was started in 1985 and has serves North Dakota and Minnesota birth parents and adoptive families with a mission of “Displaying God’s love to children, birth parents, and families by providing Christ-centered adoption services that have an eternal impact by growing forever families.”

Christian Adoption Services
Family Fun Day
Saturday, October 14, 2023
10 am – 4 pm

Millennium Park, Lincoln ND

6 Large Inflatables/Bounce Houses, Games, Free Food, Silent Auction, Bike Giveaways and More!
\$10 Ages 2 and Up or \$40 Family Pack

As a full-service adoption agency we also work with potential adoptive parents looking to start or complete their family through adoption. As a twice-adoptive parent myself, I can attest to the kind and loving care Christian Adoption Services provides to its birth parents and adoptive families. More information can be found on our website at www.christianadoptionservices.org

SAVE THE DATES for Theology On Tap- the third Thursday of the month
October 19th 7pm @ Lucky 13 Pub (on the patio-fingers crossed)
November 16th 7pm @ Stonehome
December no meeting

The **church directory** is out on the table in the narthex for your review. Have you removed your landline? Changed or added an email address? Moved? Had a child? If so, please add these things to your family's section. If nothing has changed just write OK, or your initials to your section and the secretary will know to keep the information as is. **Please note:** we are doing a pictorial directory!!! We are not using an outside source but will rely on the congregation to provide their own photos if able to do so. The church office would like individuals and families to submit a photo of yourself or family to the church secretary so that LCC can produce a pictorial directory online (not on LCC's website) through a secure web portal and also on paper. Please submit the jpeg photo electronically to: churchsecretary@midconetwork.com. Photos can be taken on your phone or camera. They do not need to be professionally done. Take a selfie! Ask your neighbor! Let's get this project started and completed by Thanksgiving!

October Altar Focus Closet 701; connected with Heavens Helper Soup Café but located on Main Ave Needed now for the upcoming fall and winter season is outwear for men, women and children. Jeans for men are always in need. (See bulletin board.)

LYO Gathering 2023 at the Baymont Hotel in Mandan

High School: October 19-20

Middle School: October 20-21

Featuring Agape and Joe Davis. AGAPE and Joe bring an incredible energy to any event they're a part of! They know how to connect with youth and get them jumping out of their seat, celebrating the Lutheran faith together! This is an event not to miss. **Registration Info for 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering** Info & Workbook: <https://www.elca.church/gathering/attend/congregations> gLearn. If you have questions about the ELCA Youth Gathering please contact our Gathering Synod Champion for Western ND – Gracia Johnson at gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com or 701-471-4434.



life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 25:1-9

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴**Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

⁶**Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

⁸**Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

⁹He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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.

The sound booth has a **listening assisted device** available for anyone to use. Please ask Lavern in the sound booth for the device and headset.

Book Club Choices: Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 1:30pm in the Library.
October: West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge
November: Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Gamus
Consider coming to the Book Club. We have interesting and lively discussions of each book. A variety of subjects are read but usually works of fiction.

The fourth quarter **Christ in Our Home** daily devotional is available in the narthex by the front door.

The sanctuary now has **wall mounted sound proofing squares** on three sides. Thank you to Rod Sargent, Paul Gurholt, and John Kraft for their carpenter skills in hanging the squares.

We have **two new bulletin boards** on display. The LCC Education committee put up information on the bulletin board near the Youth room Thank you Sarah Dahl. Heather and Libby Martin put up the beautiful fall bulletin board in the narthex.

Farm to Table Buffalo Supper at UCC Saturday, Oct. 7 4:30pm—8pm. Purchase tickets at UCC 8:30—12:30 during the week. 100 % of ticket sales benefit Ministry on the Margins and UCC.

The **new sound system** was installed this week thanks to LaVern Hanson, Paul Gurholt, Kerry Carpenter, John Kraft. Thank you for your hard, diligent work.

Missouri Slope Chapel Dedication Sunday October 1, 2023 @ 2:45pm. Refreshments served after the Dedication service. Come see the newly installed, beautiful stained glass windows.

Blessing of the Animals 7 pm Wednesday, October 4 after church. Bring your favorite critter leashed or kenneled (etc.) to receive a blessing..

WEEKLY CALENDAR of October 1, 2023

Today, October 1:	Worship Service Coffee Hour 11:00am
Monday, October 2:	Stitching Group 9am Sweet Adelines practice 6-9:30pm
Tuesday, October 3:	
Wednesday, October 4:	Supper 5:15pm Worship Service 6:00pm Blessing of the Animals 7pm Confirmation/Church School 7pm River practice 7pm
Thursday, October 5:	Quilting 1pm AA Meeting 7:30pm
Friday, October 6:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, October 7:	Men's Bible Study 10:00am River practice 4pm
Sunday, October 8:	River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am
Upcoming Events October 29	Confirmation Trunk or Treat

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Thy Word"

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: "Borning Cry" ELW #732

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: "I Love You Lord"

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: "They'll Know We Are Christians"

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER: "Lord's Prayer" (Gilbertson)

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: "Break Thou The Bread of Life"

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION: "The Lord Be With You"

SENDING SONG: "Each Day"

DISMISSAL: "They'll Know We Are Christians"

Introduction

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

"THE RIVER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Janice Martin

Greeters—AJ Marx & Daryl Hodnefield

Ushers—David & Kathy Drovda, John Kraft & Kay Koch

Communion Assistants—Doug Johnson, Sally Grenz, Heather Martin

Altar Guild—Heather Martin, Mavis Pommerer, Ruth Jensen, Suzanne Toso

Faith & Care—Janet & Troy Bassingthwaite, Nikki & Ryan Taylor, Sarah & Brian Dahl

River Worship Team—

Sound Board Technicians—Lavern Hanson, Larry Wolf

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

Streaming Team—Mark Kunze, Karen Will

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

Guitarists—Tom Wade,

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, Bob Roesler, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Lori Marx, Hattie Martinson, Carter Weigel, Kerry Carpenter, Mary Ternes, Vicky Moser, Jeff Thomas, Chelsea Sorenson, Jean King, baby Faya Luna Toso, Jim Miller, Heidi Renner, Peg Ahlness, Jacob Walby, Kristy Forrest

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—

Kathy Van Middlesworth, Judy Kerns, Kiearra Marsh, John Behan, Lois Kunze