

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**

Cell: 220.9011 / lisaahlness@hotmail.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

Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

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

2024 Church Council Members

Mike Geiermann, President, mgeiermann12@gmail.com 471.5122

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

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

February 18, 2024

10:00am

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
February 11, 2024

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

“Oceans”, “You Are My All in All”, “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “Blessed Assurance”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh;

There is a **laundry basket** located out in the annex for our members to donate winter gear for those that go without. Collecting used or new hats, mittens, gloves, & scarves. Thank you for your contribution to our community! The basket will remain in the narthex until warm weather arrives again. Kathryn Spilman takes the donated items and distributes them to the library patrons that go without warm gear

Confirmation teachers; (Jean Kraft, Sheila Suess, Brett Gurholt) are in need of plastic bags for the purpose of making sleeping mats for the homeless. The bags are cut into strips to start the process so many, many, many bags are needed to complete one. The more bags that can be turned in the better. The best desirable bag is from Walmart however as they are very thin. A cardboard box has been placed in the multipurpose room for the deposit of bags. Thank you for your help in accomplishing this task.

In the Footsteps of Paul tour coming in March 2025! We have many tools to help Bible stories come alive for us: maps, study guides, commentaries, different translations. But nothing brings more aha! moments and enhances understanding better than traveling to the places and getting to know the context that surround and shape the story.

Pastor Lisa will be leading a group to Greece and Turkey, to some of the places where Paul preached and ministered, from March 18-29, 2025. You will visit Thessaloniki, Philippi, the Meteora monasteries, Delphi, Athens, a 4 day cruise excursion taking us to Mykonos, Ephesus (Turkey), Patmos, Rhodes, Crete, and Santorini; and Corinth, before returning to Athens for overnight and departure. Full information is available now; let Pr. Lisa know if you are interested in hearing more about it or know someone who might like to go.

The Concordia Choir Returns to Bismarck

The Concordia College Choir, directed by Dr. Michael Culloton, will be in concert at Trinity Lutheran Church (3rd St. and Ave B in downtown Bismarck) on Saturday, March 2nd, at 4 p.m. Tickets are available right here in the church office, at Eckroth Music, online at ConcordiaTickets.com, and at the door. This choir is fantastic, and we are thrilled their tour is stopping in Bismarck. And, bonus: one of our very own LCC "church kids", Duncan Tufte, sings with the choir! Don't miss your chance to hear them, and in a fantastic church venue to boot. Invite your friends!

As one of the host congregations for the Concordia Choir concert, we will be assisting in providing a meal after the concert for them and for Cantus, the mixed high school choir of Central Dakota Children's Choirs, who will also be performing a song - altogether about 125 people. We are in charge of desserts, and to this end, would like to provide a variety of bars, cookies, etc. (There are a few gluten free/ceeliac singers, so we need something appropriate for them, also). Please let Pastor Lisa know if you could provide a pan of bars or batch of cookies, etc. Thank you for helping extend hospitality to these visitors and performing artists!

Heat the Church The calendar is on the round table in the narthex. Through February is \$25 day. March \$10 Choose the date(s) that have special meaning in the lives of your families. Donate in the memory of someone, or acknowledge a special event or purpose. Donations may be mailed or one may choose to use electronic giving. Thank you for continuing this tradition.

Ladies, Good News!

LCC Women's Retreat March 1 & 2, 2024 at Camp of the Cross! Cost \$100.

Checks written to Church of the Cross.

Deacon Beth Anderson has agreed to facilitate our discussion "Embracing Our Spiritual Gifts"!

We will gather at LCC and drive to Garrison, eat dinner in town, head to Retreat Center at Camp of the Cross. Saturday, Continental Breakfast, discussion, lunch, more discussion, free time and leave by 5 PM.

Please let Sally Grenz know if you plan to attend the weekend sharing time together! Sally Grenz Sallygrenz@hotmail.com 701- 390-3049

Coffee hosts, dishwashers, are needed going forward.

and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Responsive Reading: Psalm 25:1-10

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.

¹⁰**All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸Christ 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: *“Jesus, Name Above All Names”*

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

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: Good Night Irene by Luis Alberto Urrea

April: The Paris Daughter by Kristen Harmel

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.

This year for the **Lenten season**, we will be presenting the **faith stories** of some of members of our faith family in this congregation. We are honored that people are willing to step forward and share how faith and prayer shaped their lives and the very structure of this church! We will hear how God’s hand was revealed in life events where someone didn’t expect, how prayer radically changed someone’s path, and how the actions of others showed God’s love in some dark times. There will be one faith story presented each Wednesday, beginning on February 21, 2024. We hope you can join us for these powerful messages! Ken Will will be the speaker this week. Come hear his message.

The **Easter flower order blank** is at the back of the church and also out in the narthex. Order deadline is due today Feb. 18th.

Altar Focus This month we will collect feminine hygiene products and diapers/wipes (all sizes) for area pantries which assist moms and women in need. Also during Lent, we traditionally do our “Sweet Deal for CAR” project. Take a tube of mini M & M s enjoy the sweet treat, and then fill the plastic tube with your donation of change (note of interest: it will hold \$14 in quarters perfectly!) bills, or a check, and bring it back to the offering plate. We will continue this project, which supports our sister Lutheran church in the Central African Republic, until Easter.

WEEKLY CALENDAR of February 18, 2024

Today, February 18:	River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am
Monday, February 19:	President's Day Office closed
Tuesday, February 20:	
Wednesday, February 21:	Lenten Soup Supper 5pm Living Water Service 6:15pm Church School, Confirmation River practice 7pm
Thursday, February 22:	Quilting 1pm AA Meeting 8pm
Friday, February 23:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, February 24:	Men's Bible Study 10:00am
Sunday, February 25:	River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am

Future Happenings

Knitting 4 Others Feb. 26 1:30pm
Women's Bible Study Feb. 28 9:00am
Women's Retreat March 1 & 2, 2024 at Camp of the Cross!

SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: "The Holy Wings" ELW 613

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: "Let Us Pray for Peace"

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

OFFERING PRAYER



WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER *"Thy Will Be Done"*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *"Remember Me"*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION *"Lord Be With You"*

SENDING SONG: *"A Mighty Fortress is Our God" ELW 504*

DISMISSAL: *"My Life Is In You"*

Introduction: On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

"THE RIVER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Lyndsey Hoffer

Greeters—Myrtice Behan & Joyce Wahl

Ushers—John Kraft, Kay Koch,

Communion Assistants—Mike & Kim Humann, Verlaine Jahner

Altar Guild—

River Worship Team—

Sound Board Technicians— Larry Wolf, Francis Greff

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

Streaming Team— Mark Kunze, Karen Will, Art Wheeler

River Singers— Deb Carpenter, Kerry Carpenter, Marlene Grabow, Sally Grenz, Paul Gurholt, Doug Johnson, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Mark Murie, Amanda Sagsveen, John Saylor, Tom Wade, Barb Wilson

Guitarists—Tom Wade, Kolton Harris, Joel Crane

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, Josey Hanson, Mary Ternes, Jeff Thomas, Jean King, Jim Miller, Heidi Renner, Peg Ahlness, Jacob Walby, Kristy Forrest, JoDee Saylor, Colter Lee, Arvid Mugaas, Elizabeth Hogleund, Diane Klein, Kaylynn Harris, Pam Morris, Jaden Kunze, Shiela Mugaas, Libby Martin

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—

Donna Kenny, Valerie Timm