

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

Phone: 223-1001

Website: [www.churchofthecross.org](http://www.churchofthecross.org)

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

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

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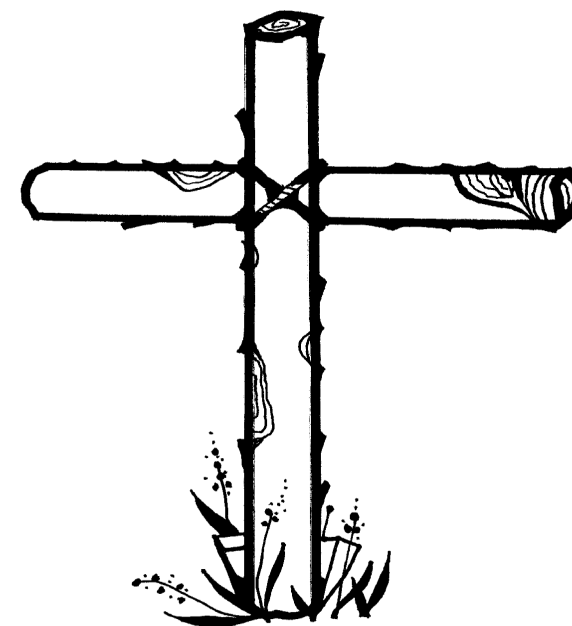
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*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

February 25, 2024

10:00am

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**February 25, 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**

*“All Who Believe and Are Baptized” ELW 442, “Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross” ELW 335, “Lamb of God”*

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** *“Just As I Am (I Come Broken)”*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*WE HEAR GOD’S WORD*

**FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

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

**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.

Thank you to Melissa and Kambree Long for the beautiful Lenten bulletin board.



### **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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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/ceciac 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.

**Coffee hosts, dishwashers,** are needed going forward.

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

### **Responsive Reading: Psalm 22:23-31**

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

<sup>24</sup>For he did not despise or abhor  
the affliction of the afflicted;  
he did not hide his face from me,  
but heard when I cried to him.

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.  
May your hearts live forever!

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the LORD;  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before him.

<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
and he rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup>To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
and I shall live for him.

<sup>30</sup>Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the LORD,

<sup>31</sup>and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.

## SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

<sup>13</sup>The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup>Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *"Jesus, Name Above All Names"*

## Mark 8:31-38

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

## 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. Sarah Dahl will be speaking this week. We hope you can join us for these powerful messages! The services are being live streamed as well.

**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.

**Did you know:** LCC council meetings are open to all members? In fact, our confirmands are often asked to attend one, just to see how it works and what happens there. You are welcome to attend. If you should have an issue or concern that you would like to have discussed at council, please speak to the president or one of the council members - their contact info is on the back of the Sunday bulletin.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR of February 25, 2024

<b>Today, February 25:</b>	<b>River Service 10:00am</b> <b>Coffee Hour 11:00am</b>
<b>Monday, February 26:</b>	<b>Needlework Group 9:00am</b> <b>Knitting 4 Others 1:30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 27:</b>	
<b>Wednesday, February 28:</b>	<b>Women's Bible Study 9:00am</b> <b>Lenten Soup Supper 5pm</b> <b>Living Water Service 6:15pm</b> <b>Church School, Confirmation</b> <b>River practice 7pm</b>
<b>Thursday, February 29:</b>	<b>Quilting 1pm</b> <b>AA Meeting 8pm</b>
<b>Friday, March 1:</b>	<b>Wired Word 1:30pm</b> <b>Woman's Retreat @ COC</b>
<b>Saturday, March 2:</b>	<b>Woman's Retreat @ COC</b>
<b>Sunday, March 3:</b>	<b>River Service 10:00am</b> <b>Coffee Hour 11:00am</b>

### **Future Happenings**

**Church Council March 7th 6:30pm**  
**Theology on Tap March 21 7pm Broadway Grill**

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

**SERMON:** Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**SONG OF THE DAY:** *"God Will Make a Way"*

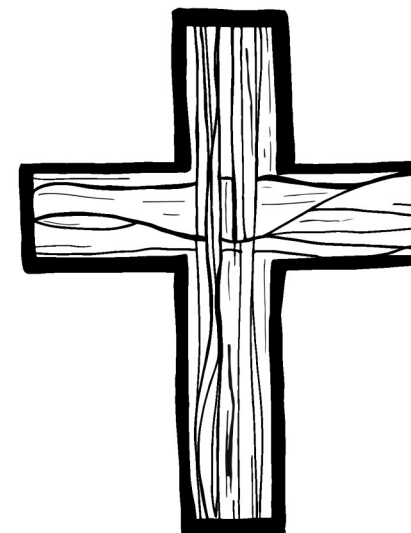
**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:** *"I Love You, Lord"*

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING:** *"Create in Me a Clean Heart"*

**OFFERING PRAYER**





*WE SHARE THE MEAL*

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Spoken*

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** *"The Glory of These Forty Days" ELW 320*

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION** *Spoken*

**SENDING SONG:** *"Will You Come and Follow Me/The Summons" ELW 798*

**DISMISSAL:** *"Let It Rise"*

**INTRODUCTION:** The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

**"THE RIVER" WORSHIP MINISTERS**

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Sally Grenz

**Greeters**—Keven & Janice Martin

**Ushers**—Verlaine Jahner, Kay Koch, Mike & Tracy Geiermann

**Communion Assistants**—Mavis Pommerer

**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