

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**

498-2604/cranejoel58@gmail.com

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

2023 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

Janice Martin, mrladyj2000@gmail.com 471.5600

Sarah Dahl, sarahdahimba@gmail.com 226.6844

Scot Long, scotglong@gmail.com 400.2169

Rod Sargent randdebsarge@beu.midco.net 880.8238

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

February 4, 2024

10:00am

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
February 4, 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

“Shout to the North”, “Come As You Are”, “Better Is One Day”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Pastor Sondra Krogstad

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40: 21-31

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Election results from Annual Meeting:

Council: re-elected Mike Geiermann, elected Rod Sargent, each to a three year term.

Endowment Committee: Daryl Hodnefield and Kylie Blanchard to 3 yr. term
Scot Long will serve as council liaison.

Camp of the Cross Annual Meeting reps: to February 2 meeting Kari Harris,
Mark Kunze, Mike Humann and Pastor Lisa

Missouri Slope Annual Meeting reps: to late September meeting: LorRaine
Riveland, LaVern Hanson & Pastor Lisa

Nominating Committee: one constitutional change that passed was that the
term served by nominating committee members would change from one year,
non renewable to 2 year terms which can be renewed once. Pursuant to that
change, current members were asked to serve one more year: Melissa Long,
Gerri Sarsten, Heather Martin, Jessi Karvo, Mike Geiermann.

Audit Committee: the other constitutional change passed at the annual meet-
ing was to make it an option to use a professional auditor to audit the books, ra-
ther than a committee of church members. This means our long term practice
now aligns with our constitution.

Synod Assembly Voting Members: Assembly will be held May 31—June 2 in
Watford City. John & Janet Doerner, Jean Kraft and Pastor Lisa are going. Mur-
ray Sagsveen will also be in attendance in his role as WND synod attorney.

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 bas-
ket 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 with-
out warm gear

Coffee hosts, dishwashers, and Wednesday evening meal hosts needed
going forward.

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!

THANK YOU: to Jean Kraft's Confirmation group, Sunday JOP Church School children and leaders, and Wednesday evening's Church School children for making Valentines for Helping Hands to deliver to our Seniors and Shut Ins Helping Hands Committee at LCC

Helping Hands would like show our gratitude to **Jim Miller and Paul Gurholt** for using their wood working skills to make Crosses this past year. Thank you for sharing your skills with Church of the Cross community!

If you save pop top tabs and would like them to be delivered to McDonald House please leave on the credenza across from the large bulletin board.

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

²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵ To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

¹Praise the LORD!

How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

²**The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.**

³He heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.

⁴**He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.**

⁵Great is our LORD, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.

⁶**The LORD lifts up the downtrodden;
he casts the wicked to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.

⁸**He covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills.**

⁹He gives to the animals their food,
and to the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰**His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;**

¹¹but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

²⁰**He has not dealt thus with any other nation;
they do not know his ordinances.**

Praise the LORD!

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

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.
February: Other Birds by Sarah Addison Allen
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!

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 Pastor Korsmo and Pastor Krogstad for being with us today. We appreciate your time and talents in sharing your messages from Scripture.

WEEKLY CALENDAR of February 4, 2024

Today, February 4:	River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am
Monday, February 5:	Needlework Group 9am
Tuesday, February 6:	Helping Hands 4 pm
Wednesday, February 7:	Supper 5pm Living Water Service 6:15pm Church School, Confirmation, River practice 7pm
Thursday, February 8:	Quilting 1pm Church Council 6:30pm AA Meeting 8pm
Friday, February 9:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, February 10:	Men's Bible Study 10:00am
Sunday, February 11:	River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am
Future Happenings	
Valentine's Day/ Ash Wednesday	Feb. 14th
Book Club Feb. 14th	1:30pm
Theology on Tap Feb. 15th	Thomas & Moriarty's 7pm

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:29-39

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

SERMON: Pastor Sharon Korsmo

SONG OF THE DAY: *"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"* ELW 773

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: *“Let Us Pray for Peace”*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: *“Give Thanks”*

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER *spoken*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *“On Eagle’s Wings” ELW 787*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION *spoken*

SENDING SONG: *“Oh, Worship the King” ELW 842*

DISMISSAL: *“Shout to the North”*

Introduction: In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus’ healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon’s mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Amanda Sagsveen

Greeters—Mike & Tracy Geiermann

Ushers—Art Wheeler, Lee Jensen, Larry & Verlaine Jahner

Communion Assistants—Ruth Jensen, Mavis, Pommerer, Melissa Long

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

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—