

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

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Art Wheeler, **Treasurer**

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Beth Greff, **Worship Coordinator**

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Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

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

2023 Church Council Members

Mike Geiermann, President mgeiermann12@gmail.com 471.5122

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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

February 11, 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

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”, “Here I Am to Worship”, “Shine a Little Light”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “Days of Elijah”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

⁴Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your

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!

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

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

master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.



Responsive Reading: Psalm 50:1-6

¹The mighty one, God the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²**Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.**

³Our God comes and does not keep silence,
before him is a devouring fire,
and a mighty tempest all around him.

⁴**He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:**

⁵"Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

⁶**The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.**

Selah

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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.

Join us for a meal and worship this Wednesday as we mark the beginning of Lent with **Ash Wednesday worship at 6:15 pm**. This worship service will include both the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion, and will be preceded by a delicious soup supper from Lady J's, beginning at 5:00 pm.

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!

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR of February 11, 2024

Today, February 11:	River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am
Monday, February 12:	Needlework Group 9am
Tuesday, February 13:	
Wednesday, February 14:	Ash Wednesday/ Valentine's Day Book Club 1:30 Lenten Soup Supper 5pm Living Water Service 6:15pm Church School, NO Confirmation River practice 7pm
Thursday, February 15:	Quilting 1pm Theology on Tap Feb. 15th Thomas & Moriarty's 7pm AA Meeting 8pm
Friday, February 16:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, February 17:	Men's Bible Study 10:00am
Sunday, February 18:	River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am

Future Happenings
President's Day Office closed
Knitting 4 Others Feb. 26
Women's Bible Study Feb. 28

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

GOSPEL READING: Mark 9: 2-9

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: *"Beautiful Savior" ELW 838*

APOSTLES' CREED

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: *"Shine Your Light on Me"*

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER *"Lord's Prayer"*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *"Christ, Be Our Light" ELW 715*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION *"Lord Be With You"*

SENDING SONG: *"Shine, Jesus, Shine" ELW 671*

DISMISSAL: *"We Are Marching in the Light of God" ELW 866"*

Introduction: The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

"THE RIVER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Tracy Geiermann

Greeters—AJ Marx & Kay Koch

Ushers—Keven & Janice Martin, Joel & Suzanne Toso

Communion Assistants—Roger Krueger, Myrtice Behan, Doug Johnson

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 Sayler, 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 Sayler, Colter Lee, Arvid Mugaas, Elizabeth Hoglund, Diane Klein, Kaylynn Harris, Pam Morris

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—

Donna Kenny