

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**

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

Janice Martin, mrladyj2000@gmail.com 471.5600

Sarah Dahl, sarahdahimba@gmail.com 226.6844

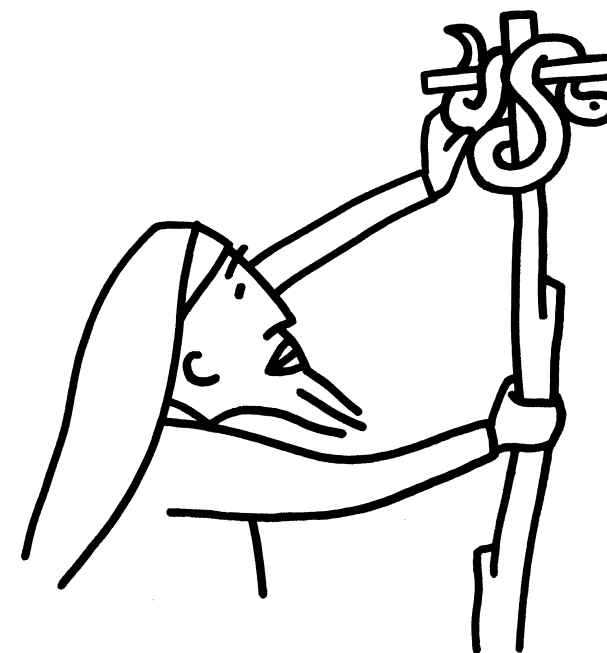
Scot Long, scotglong@gmail.com 400.2169

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

March 10, 2024

10:00am

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
March 10, 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

“Here I Am to Worship”, “You Are My King (Amazing Love)”, “Mighty to Save”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *“Give To Our God Immortal Praise” ELW 848*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Seniors Did you know that you can sign up for lunch meals through the Senior Center? You even have options to get your meal. You may eat inside with your friends, you can drive up to pick up your meal or you may have them delivered to your home. To participate in either of the three ways participants must complete a meal assessment. Suggested donation is \$4.50/meal. SNAP benefits may be used. (They also offer flash frozen meals.) By the way the Senior Citizen Center is always looking for volunteers to deliver meals. Call them if you can help deliver or to make arrangements for meals. 255.4648

Peeps Dioramas Return!

Some people think one of the greatest things about spring is the return of Peeps marshmallow candies in many forms and colors. Whatever you think of eating them, it turns out they are great fun to work with artistically, as well! This year our church school students and any others who are interested will once again create Bible or Easter themed dioramas using Peeps and other items. Wednesday students, you will do these during normal class times. Sunday students, please come early at 9 am on Sundays, March 10 and 24 (cereal/milk provided) or stay after worship those Sundays (pizza provided), or both. The dioramas will be displayed for all to enjoy on Easter Sunday!

Until further notice, please do not bring more plastic grocery bags. Thank you!



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

Palms and Pancakes on Palm Sunday, March 24! Even if you're new around here, you may have figured out that LCC is a pancake and sausage breakfast-friendly place! Great food, great fellowship, and a wonderful way to support ministries we care about. We always do one later in the year to benefit Camp of the Cross, and this one, on Palm Sunday, has become a custom to support Missouri Slope, the Lutheran care center our members helped form some 60 years ago. Come and enjoy! (And, if you would like to buy extra Wishek sausage, please call them and order ahead and we will pick up for you. Do let us know by the 17th. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for volunteering to bring food items for the breakfast.

Thank you to the Faith and Care Groups who have and are serving the Lenten Soup Suppers. You are appreciated!

First Communion Class Our "usual" age for first communion class is third grade; however, we have a group of first grade and older students interested in learning more about communion. Your child is invited to come to a class on Saturday, March 23, noon to 2 pm where we will bake communion bread with an altar guild mentor, and learn some things while it is baking. That bread will be used for worship on Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 7 pm, where this group will celebrate First Communion. Please let Pastor Lisa know your child is coming, so we can plan appropriately for ingredients, and if you have questions. ** Also, please have your child (you, too, ideally!) watch "The Prince of Egypt" before this class.** It is a Disney movie from 1998. You can stream it if you prefer, or the church has 4 copies of the DVD to lend.

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.

For those of you who enjoy watching our services "**live streamed**" did you know that **the bulletin** is also placed on the website each week? Go to <https://churchofthecross.org>. To find the bulletin or to live stream (using the cursor on the right hand of the home page) move it so that it shows more of the middle part of the home page. Click on **STREAM LIVE**. That will take you to the streaming pages (where when moving the cursor down again) you will see the options for watching the Sunday and Lenten services as well as a posting of two Weekly Service Bulletins.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 107:1-3,17-22

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
those he redeemed from trouble**

³and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were sick through their sinful ways,
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;**

¹⁸they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.

¹⁹**Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress;**

²⁰he sent out his word and healed them,
and delivered them from destruction.

²¹**Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.**

²²And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.



SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *“Jesus Messiah”*

GOSPEL READING: John 3:14-21

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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.

Holy Week Worship Services

Palm/Passion Sunday	March 24	10 a.m.
with procession of Palms and reading of the Passion Pancake & Sausage Breakfast following service		
Maundy Thursday	March 28	7 p.m.
with celebration of First Communion		
Good Friday	March 29	7 p.m.
Tenebrae service of shadows		
Ecumenical Easter Vigil	March 30	7 p.m.
at Lord of Life Lutheran, 1143 N. 26 th St in Bismarck		
Easter Sunday	March 31	8:00 a.m. and 10 a.m.
with continental breakfast between services		

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. Jim & Gloria Mathias 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 During Lent, we traditionally do our **“Sweet Deal for CAR”** project. We will continue this project, which supports our sister Lutheran church in the Central African Republic, until Easter. Also :**Closet 701** 2306 E. Broadway Ave. is a ministry in town that gives away clothing and now kitchenwares to those in need. One thing always in great need – and that must be new, not used – is underwear. children or adult sizes.

WEEKLY CALENDAR of March 10, 2024

Today, March 10:	River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am
Monday, March 11:	Needlework Group 9:00am
Tuesday, March 12:	
Wednesday, March 13:	Lenten Soup Supper 5pm Living Water Service 6:15pm Church School, Confirmation River practice 7pm
Thursday, March 14:	Quilting 1pm AA Meeting 8pm
Friday, March 15:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, March 16:	Men's Bible Study 10:00
Sunday, March 17:	River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am

Future Happenings

Theology on Tap March 21 7pm Broadway Grill
Saturday, March 23 First Communion class noon to 2pm
Pancake Breakfast March 24 Palm Sunday 11am
Maundy Thursday March 28 7pm
Good Friday March 29 7pm
Easter Vigil Saturday, March 30 7pm Lord of Life
Easter Sunday 2 services 8 & 10 brunch between services

SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" ELW 502

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: *"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION *Spoken*

SENDING SONG: *"Lift High the Cross" ELW 660*

DISMISSAL: *"Mighty to Save"*

INTRODUCTION

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

"THE RIVER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Janice Martin

Greeters—Myrtice Behan & AJ Marx

Ushers— Art Wheeler, Lee Jensen, Steve & Cheryl Neu

Communion Assistants—Mavis Pommerer, Tracy Geiermann, Sally Grenz

Altar Guild—Jean Kraft, Cheryl Neu, Sharon Narum, Joyce Wahl, Cherie Krueger

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, Jeff Thomas, Jean King, Jim Miller, Heidi Renner, Jacob Walby, Kristy Forrest, JoDee Sayler, Colter Lee, Arvid Mugaas, Elizabeth Hoglelund, Diane Klein, Kaylynn Harris, Pam Morris, Jaden Kunze, Shiela Mugaas, Libby Martin, Robyn Richter, Deacon Janie Hague

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—Mary Ternes, Donna Kenny, Valerie Timm