

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

2024 Church Council Members

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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

March 17, 2024

10:00am

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
March 17, 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

“I Will Rise”, “Change My Heart O God”, “Cornerstone”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *“Jesus Calls Us; O’er the Tumult” ELW 696*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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 Sunday, March 24 (cereal/milk provided) or stay after worship (pizza provided), or both. The dioramas will be displayed for all to enjoy on Easter Sunday!

Paul Gurholt, John Kraft, and Mike Humann have transformed the fellowship hall and multipurpose room by way of hanging sound proofing panels to quiet the noise levels in both rooms. Thank you for the manpower, time, and skills that you 3 provided to tackle this job this week. The panels were a gift from the estate of Maxine and Bryce Hill (for all three rooms.)

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 kitchen wares to those in need. One thing always in great need – and that must be new, not used – is; children or adult sizes.

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 and working at 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. You will find the copies in the pastor's plastic bin just outside her door.

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.

Longtime member **Arnie Metzger** died. His funeral, at Parkway, will be April 2 at 12:30. Lunch following the service with burial at the ND Veterans Cemetery at 3pm that day.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 51:1-12

¹Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

²**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

⁶**You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**



SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Jesus Messiah”

GOSPEL READING: John 12:20-33

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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.

April: The Paris Daughter by Kristen Harmel

May: The Midwife’s Song by Brenda Ray

June: The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters

July: To Heaven & ack by Mary C. Neal

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. Hattie Martin will be speaking this week. We hope you can join us for this last message! The services are being live streamed as well.

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR of March 17, 2024

Today, March 17:	St. Patrick's Day River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am
Monday, March 18:	Needlework Group 9:00am
Tuesday, March 19:	
Wednesday, March 20:	Lenten Soup Supper 5pm Living Water Service 6:15pm Church School, Confirmation River practice 7pm
Thursday, March 21:	Gather Bible Study 10:30am Quilting 1pm Theology on Tap 7pm Broadway Grill AA Meeting 8pm
Friday, March 22:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, March 23:	Men's Bible Study 10:00 First Communion class 12—2p
Sunday, March 24:	Palm Sunday River Service 10:00am Pancake Breakfast 11am

Future Happenings

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: "Now the Green Blade Rises" ELW 379

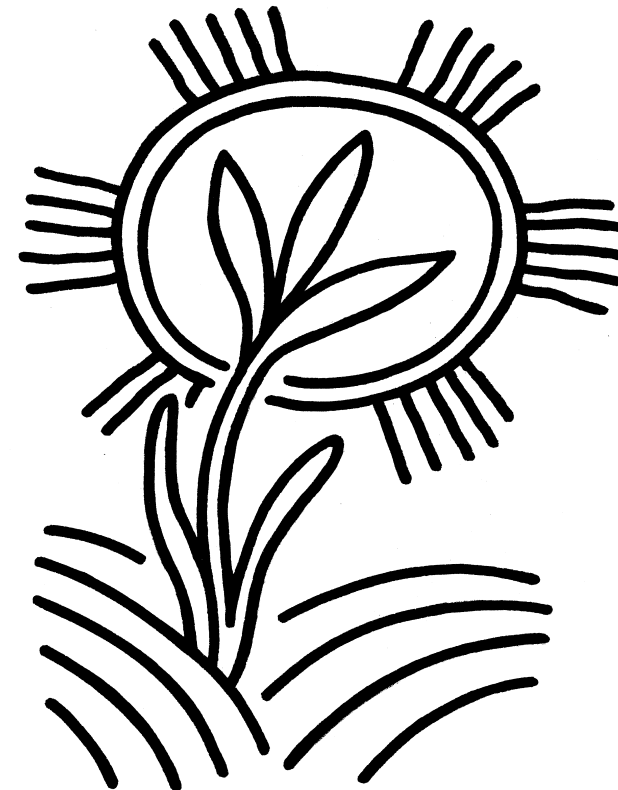
APOSTLES' CREED

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 *"Thy Will Be Done"*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *"Abide"*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION *"The Lord Be With You"*

SENDING SONG: *"Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross" ELW 335*

DISMISSAL: *"Cornerstone"*

INTRODUCTION

God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.



"THE RIVER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Mike Humann

Greeters—Joyce Wahl & Kay Koch

Ushers—John Kraft, Tracy Wolf, Keven & Janice Martin

Communion Assistants—Myrtice Behan, Ken Will, Verlaine Jahner

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—Arnie Metzger, Mary Ternes, Marty Marchello