

Lutheran Church of the Cross  
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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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*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

March 3, 2024

10:00am

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**March 3, 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**

*“Our God”, “His Glory Appears”, “Friends in Christ”*

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** *“In the Cross of Christ, I Glory” ELW 324*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*WE HEAR GOD’S WORD*

**FIRST READING:** Exodus 20:1-17

<sup>1</sup>God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

**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 Thessoloniki, 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.

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

**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!



**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.

**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

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

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

**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 17<sup>th</sup>.

**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, 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.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

#### RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 19

<sup>1</sup>The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>**Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.**

<sup>3</sup>There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;

<sup>4</sup>**yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.**

**In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,**

<sup>5</sup>which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them;  
and nothing is hid from its heat.**

<sup>7</sup>The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul;

the decrees of the LORD are sure,  
making wise the simple;

<sup>8</sup>**the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;**

**the commandment of the LORD is clear,  
enlightening the eyes;**

<sup>9</sup>the fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the LORD are true  
and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey,  
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

<sup>11</sup>Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup>**But who can detect their errors?  
Clear me from hidden faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Keep back your servant also from the insolent;  
do not let them have dominion over me.  
Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.

<sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you,  
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

#### **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,  
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *“Jesus Messiah”*

## **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. Nate Humann 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. 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.

Also : **Closet 701** is a ministry in town that gives away clothing and now kitchenwares to those in need. You are always welcome to donate clothes, bedding, shoes, coats, and kitchenware! One thing always in great need – and that must be new, not used – is underwear. So this month, you are invited to bring a package or more of new underwear, children or adult sizes. .

**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. Church Council is meeting a week early this month 3/7 at 6:30pm.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR of March 3, 2024

<b>Today, March 3:</b>	<b>River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am</b>
<b>Monday, March 4:</b>	<b>Needlework Group 9:00am</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 5:</b>	
<b>Wednesday, March 6:</b>	<b>Lenten Soup Supper 5pm Living Water Service 6:15pm Church School, Confirmation River practice 7pm</b>
<b>Thursday, March 7:</b>	<b>Quilting 1pm Church Council 6:30pm AA Meeting 8pm</b>
<b>Friday, March 8:</b>	<b>Wired Word 1:30pm</b>
<b>Saturday, March 9:</b>	<b>Men's Bible Study 10:00</b>
<b>Sunday, March 10:</b>	<b>River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am</b>

### **Future Happenings**

Theology on Tap March 21 7pm Broadway Grill

Altar Focus: C.A.R. and Closet 701—New underwear

### **GOSPEL John 2:13-22**

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

**SERMON:** Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**SONG OF THE DAY:** *"Canticle of the Turning"* ELW 723

**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:** *"How Great Thou Art"* ELW 856

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION** "Benediction Song"

**SENDING SONG:** *"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"* ELW 803

**DISMISSAL:** *"I'll Fly Away"*

**INTRODUCTION**

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

**"THE RIVER" WORSHIP MINISTERS**

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Barb Wilson

**Greeters**—Kay Koch & Tracy Wolf

**Ushers**— Roger Krueger, Larry & Verlaine Jahner

**Communion Assistants**—Roger & Esther Anderson, Janice Martin

**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 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, Jeff Thomas, Jean King, Jim Miller, Heidi Renner, Jacob Walby, Kristy Forrest, JoDee Saylor, 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