

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, Beth Greff, Joel and Jan Gilbertson **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, sarahdahlmba@gmail.com 226.6844

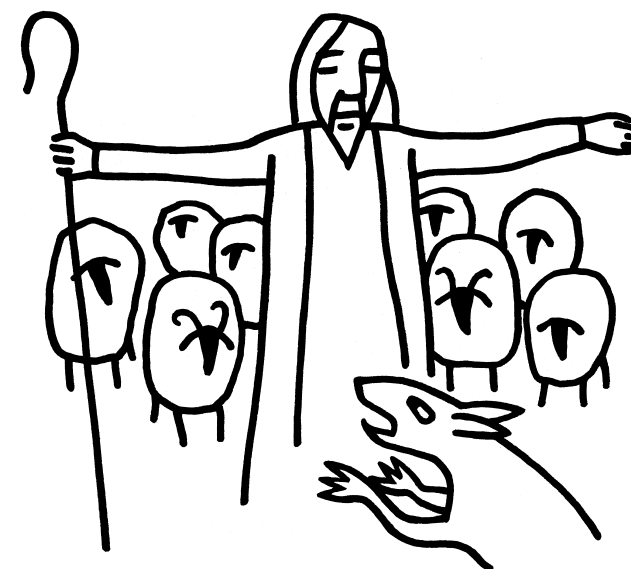
Scot Long, scotglong@gmail.com 400.2169

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

April 21, 2024

10:00am

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
April 21, 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

“Have No Fear, Little Flock” ELW 764, “He Leadeth Me”, “Blessed Be Your Name”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “The Lord’s My Shepherd” ELW 778

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

Speaking of Generosity – Opportunities for Giving

At worship you often hear me thank you for your generosity. We are grateful! Our many ministries here at LCC and those we support in the community and wider world could not do it without you! Here are some ways you can give at and through LCC. Choose which fit your lifestyle best!

Offering envelopes: These are found on the oak cabinet in the narthex, far right side (or ask treasurer Art Wheeler, if they are gone). You can put cash or checks in these and as long as your name is on it (or Art is aware of your envelope number), your offering will be recorded for you.

Online: we use Vanco for our other forms of giving. All the options are linked, so you can give through any of the following ways and they will all be recorded for you. Art send statements a couple of times per year.

Website: you can easily set up an online giving account on our website – then you don’t have to do it each time you go online. You can also set recurring gifts if you like, and choose various funds to give to, through the website.

Vanco Mobile App: you can download the Vanco Mobile app on your phone. This will link to the same account, if you’ve set one up on the website, or you can give only through the app if you like. Just make sure to choose OUR Lutheran Church of the Cross, as there are others!

Text: You can also give by text! I know – the world these days! Many people no longer carry cash – but almost everyone carries their smart phone. So, you can use the Vanco Mobile app, OR you can simply send a text to our dedicated number: **701-969-7030**. Just put a number in the message – 20 if you’d like to give \$20, etc. It will prompt you to sign in or set up a Vanco account (which would have your credit, debit or checking account number, which is where the money would come from in any of these cases – all safely encrypted, of course. This is the same account used for the other methods.). You can test this by giving a \$1 donation, say, and if you find it simple – maybe this will be your choice for giving!

Camp of the Cross scholarships available for campers!

Have you ever been to Camp of the Cross, near Garrison? It is fantastic! Check out the brochures on the kids' table near the library and see all the summer opportunities for youth. (The bulletin board has upcoming retreats, as well!) We don't want cost to be an impediment to your child being able to have this fabulous camp experience. \$100 scholarships are available. Please contact Pastor Lisa or treasurer Art Wheeler.

Calling You Artists!

It's time once again to think about future ones. Would you like to try your hand at a bulletin board? Pentecost is May 19 – the coming of the Holy Spirit. That might be a fun one to do! Or, maybe one as we welcome summer in June? Let Pr. Lisa or the office know if you are interested. Individuals, families or groups of artists are welcome and encouraged! It's so fun to see your creativity shine.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who contributed food supplies and labor to make the Pancake and Sausage Breakfast for the Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center so successful. Thanks to all who also came hungry and ate. Nearly \$5500 was raised.

Your quarters and other contributions sent in via the M & M tubes totaled \$2100 for **Central African Republic**. Thank you.



'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

³he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “When We Gather”

GOSPEL READING: John 10:11-18

[Jesus said:] ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: *“The King of Love My Shepherd Is” ELW 502*

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: *“Open Our Eyes, Lord”*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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.

May: The Midwife’s Song by Brenda Ray

June: The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters

July: To Heaven & Back 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.

Missouri Slope LCC. **BINGO prizes** are our Altar Focus for them this month. Do you have trinkets, small bottles of lotion, small packages of snacks, etc. to give when someone yells BINGO!! Drop them off here and we’ll see that they get to MSLLC.

Can We Talk? An ongoing dialogue April 3 –24 on Wednesdays at Unitarian Universalist on 9th and Divide Ave. Co led by Bismarck UCC and UU. Hear about how to have meaningful conversations in polarized times.

Earth Day Movie Night Monday, April 22 at 6pm “Common Ground” is a documentary film directed by Joshua & Rebecca Tickell. It delves into the world of regenerative agriculture. The movie will be held at UCC.

Mother the Camp will be May’s Altar Focus. The lists are placed in the narthex. Get your copy and start some early shopping. Camp of the Cross thanks you.

Baptized last Sunday was Luca June Vance, daughter of Macy (Markovic) and Devyn Vance. Jessie and Shawn Markovic are the grandparents. Blessings to you Luca as you grow in your faith.

WEEKLY CALENDAR of April 21, 2024

Today, April 21:

River Service 10:00am
Coffee Hour

Monday, April 22:

Needlework Group 9:00am
Knitting for Others 1pm

Tuesday, April 23:

Wednesday, April 24:

Women's Bible Study 9am
Supper 5pm
Living Water Service 6:15pm
Church school, Confirmation,
River practice 7pm

Thursday, April 25:

Quilting 1pm
AA Meeting 8pm

Friday, April 26:

Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, April 27:

Men's Bible Study 10am

Sunday, April 28:

River Service 10am
Coffee Hour 11:00am

Future Happenings

OFFERING: *"We Are an Offering"*

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER: *Spoken*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: "Surely Goodness, Surely Mercy" (Psalm 23)

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION *Spoken*

SENDING SONG: *"We Are Called"*

DISMISSAL: *"Soon and Very Soon"*

INTRODUCTION: The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.



“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Sarah Dahl

Ushers— Scot & Melissa Long, John Kraft, Kay Koch

Communion Assistants—Esther Anderson, Ruth Jensen, Heather Martin

Altar Guild—Cherie Krueger, Heather Martin, Mavis Pommerer, Barb Thomas

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

Percussionist— Kari Harris

Violinist—Fynn Sagsveen

Flutist—Beth Greff

Accompanists—Gerri Sarsten, Beth Greff, Jan & Joel Gilbertson

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, Josey Hanson, Jeff Thomas, Jim Miller, Heidi Renner, Kristy Forrest, JoDee Saylor, Colter Lee, Arvid Mugaas, Elizabeth Hoglund, Diane Klein, Kaylynn Harris, Pam Morris, Jaden Kunze, Libby Martin, Robyn Richter, Deacon Janie Hague, Kira Willadsen, Kerry Carpenter

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones— Arnie Metzger, Marty Marchello