

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**

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Connie Werner, **Secretary** cell 400.5852

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

April 7, 2024

10:00am

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
April 7, 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”, Prelude Gayla Sherman, Harp

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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!

Thank you to all who have contributed to Heat the Church program again this year. Thank you for remembering a special person in your life, a significant event.

Easter Flowers You may take yours home. There is a list on the altar of what was ordered. Please initial it or cross out your name when you take them. Thanks.

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.

Theology on Tap April 18th @ Black Lions Mandan, ND 7pm.

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.

Thank you Sheila Link for the beautiful Easter bulletin board.



RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 133

¹How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "When We Gather"

GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-31

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON: Pastor Brad Dokken

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.

Today we welcome **Gayla Sherman** to Lutheran Church of the Cross. Gayla is the Foundation Director at Missouri Slope and also a professional Harpist. She is graciously playing Harp for us during today's worship service. She will also be available during the pancake breakfast to visit or answer any questions about Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center. Welcome, Gayla!

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 & 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.

Pancakes and Sausage Breakfast TODAY This breakfast has become a custom to support Missouri Slope, the Lutheran care center our members helped form some 60 years ago. Come and enjoy. Speaking of 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.



WEEKLY CALENDAR of April 7, 2024

Today, April 7: River Service 10:00am
Pancake Breakfast 11am

Monday, April 8: Needlework Group 9:00am

Tuesday, April 9:

Wednesday, April 10 Book Club 1:30pm
Supper 5pm
Living Water Service 6:15pm
Church school, Confirmation,
River practice 7pm

Thursday, April 11: Quilting 1pm
Church Council 6:30pm
AA Meeting 8pm

Friday, April 12: Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, April 13: Men's Bible Study 10am

Sunday, April 14: River Service 10am
Coffee Hour 11:00am

Future Happenings

Gather Bible Study April 18 10:30am
Theology on Tap April 18 7pm Black Lions
Knitting for Others April 22 1pm
Women's Bible Study April 24 9am

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

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: *"Open our Eyes, Lord"*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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: *Communion Meditation* Gayla Sherman, Harp

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION *Spoken*

SENDING SONG: *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"* ELW 815

DISMISSAL: *"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"* ELW 385

INTRODUCTION:

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

"THE RIVER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Myrtice Behan

Ushers— Steve & Cheryl Neu, Tracy Wolf, Floy Marx

Communion Assistants—Mike & Kim Humann, Ken Will

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

Guitarists—Tom Wade, Kolton Harris, Joel Crane

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, Jacob Walby, Kristy Forrest, JoDee Saylor, Colter Lee, Arvid Mugaas, Elizabeth Hogleund, Diane Klein, Kaylynn Harris, Pam Morris, Jaden Kunze, Shiela Mugaas, Libby Martin, Robyn Richter, Deacon Janie Hague, Kira Willadsen, Kerry Carpenter

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

