

Lutheran Church of the Cross
1004 E Highland Acres Rd.
Bismarck ND 58501

Phone: 223-1001

Website: www.churchofthecross.org

Winter Hours: Mon.– Thursday 8–3pm Fri 8 to noon

Summer Office Hours: Mon.- Fri. 8:00 am—noon

Staff:

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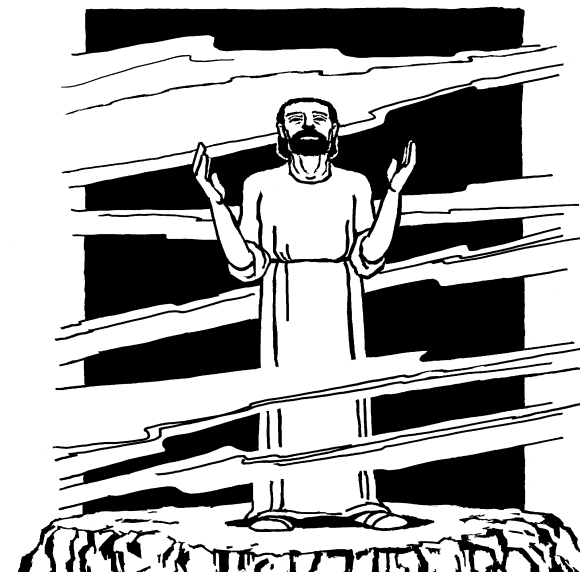
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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

March 2, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
March 2, 2025

INTRODUCTION

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God’s glory in the word and in the supper and who are being “transformed into the same image” by God’s Spirit.

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.

WE COME TOGETHER

PRELUDE: “Morning has Broken”, “Beautiful Savior”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG: “Open the Eyes of My Heart”

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “He is Exalted”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

We Hear God’s Word

FIRST READING: Exodus 34: 29-35

Coming down from Mount Sinai, Moses’ face shone

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.

New Member Class March 16 Are you interested in joining or learning more about Lutheran Church of the Cross? You are invited to join Pastor Lisa on Sunday, March 16, at 11:15 after worship in the Sunday School room next to the youth room, near the offices and the back door to the parking lot. If that date won’t work for you, let Pastor know and you can meet with her another time. All are welcome!

First Communion Class At LCC, all baptized children are welcome to receive communion, with parents’ permission and a plan for instruction. To that end, we will offer a first communion class on Saturday, April 12 from noon—1:30pm. Children will bake communion bread together, and then spend some time learning about the sacrament of Holy Communion. We usually do this class for children from 1-3 grades or whenever your child is interested and ready to learn. First communion will be celebrated on Maundy Thursday, April 17th, at the 7pm service. Let Pastor Lisa know of you children’s interest!

LCC Women’s Retreat at Camp of the Cross April 25 & 26, 2025!

Pastor Lisa will guide us through a few short sessions and activities on ‘Hope’. We will enjoy breakfast and a late lunch on Saturday prepared by Camp staff along with our discussions, and have time to enjoy the camp grounds, too, weather permitting. Hopefully several of us will be able to go up on Friday afternoon, have supper together in Garrison, and spend the evening relaxing.

Costs: \$80. for Friday/Saturday or
\$35. for Saturday only.

Questions: call Sally Grenz 701.390.3049
Payment to LCC, memo: Women’s Retreat
RSVP by April 17th please!

Do you have a love for singing, or do you enjoy reading out loud? Are you willing to help with communion or passing the basket? All of these areas need more volunteers to make this church function more cohesively as a body of believers. God doesn’t care whether you sing with perfect pitch or not. God doesn’t care whether or not you can pronounce all of those strange names found in the Bible. God just care about our hearts. We have been given so much, shouldn’t we in turn give back in some small way even it it’s out of our comfort zone? Call the church office and say “Yes I’ll do…….”

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: The Mighty Red by Louise Erdrich
April: The Language of Cottonwoods by Clay Jenkinson

Altar Focus for March: our main Lenten Altar Focus continues all the way til Easter, with the Sweet Deal for CAR. You take a tube of mini M & M’s (provided on the usher’s tables) enjoy the sweets, fill the plastic tube with your choice of offering (change, bills, check) and return it to the offering plate. These donations support our sister church in the Central African Republic, which just celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2022. In a war-torn country, the church does much to support its people, and through your donation you can help with schools, churches, a women’s center, a clinic and medical staff and supplies, and motorcycles to help pastors and lay evangelists get from one place to another. Thank you for your generosity!

March project: Closet 701 is a ministry in town that gives away clothing and kitchen wares to those in need. You are always welcome to donate clothes, bedding, towels, shoes, coats, and kitchenware (large demand for dishes, silverware, utensils, and basic pots and pans)! 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. Let’s see what we can do to make life easier for someone. Thank you for joining in!

Keep these dates open!!! March 30 and April 2 for the young and old alike. What do peeps, shoe boxes and creativity have in common? Why dioramas of course! Families, or children or the young at heart put your thinking caps on now, to envision what bible story can be created using marshmallow peeps, craft supplies and shoe boxes. LCC has done this project for several years now and it has always been well received by the participants and the viewers. They will be displayed when completed in the narthex for all to enjoy. If you have an empty shoebox or two bring them ahead of time please.

³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³²Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 99

Proclaim the greatness of the Lord; worship upon God’s holy hill. (Ps. 99:9)

¹The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

**²The LORD is great in Zion;
he is exalted over all the peoples.**

³Let them praise your great and awesome name.
Holy is he!

**⁴Mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity;
you have executed justice
and righteousness in Jacob.**

⁵Extol the LORD our God;
worship at his footstool.
Holy is he!

**⁶Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
Samuel also was among those who called on his name.
They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.**

⁷He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;
they kept his decrees,
and the statutes that he gave them.

**⁸O LORD our God, you answered them;
you were a forgiving God to them,
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.**

⁹Extol the LORD our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for the LORD our God is holy.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

With unveiled faces we see the Lord's glory as we are transformed

¹² Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

^{4:1} Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

Prayers, Births, Deaths, Concerns
For those struggling with health and other concerns:

Tracy Martinson, Ann Hillesland, Arlene Wolff, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Lori Marx, Hattie Martinson, Carter Weigel, Josey Hanson, Heidi Renner, JoDee Sayler, Arvid Mugaas, Diane Klein, Libby Martin, Kira Willadsen, Kerry Carpenter, Linda Marson, Lonnie Sunde, Jacob Hynek, Reece Fischer, Paul Kuch, Christ Gerr, Sher Harildstad, Peg Ahlness, Keaton Westlake, Brady Staloch, Austin Jamtgaard, Mark Thompson, Shirley Holder, Jerry Hanson, Claudia Thompson, Carolyn Wegerle

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—Bonnie Mathias, Luella Clarence

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Art Wheeler

Ushers—John Kraft, Roger Krueger, Tracy Wolf

Communion Assistants—Sheila Koffler,

Altar Guild—Jean Kraft, Sarah Dahl, Cherie Krueger

Faith and Care Group 3— Mavis Pommerer, Melissa & Jay Volk

River Worship Team—

Sound Board Technicians— Larry Wolf, Karen Will

Projection Team— Caden Kunze, Jace Kunze, Val Kunze, Rod Sargent,
Art Wheeler

Streaming Team— Mark Kunze, Karen Will, Art Wheeler

River Singers— Joel Crane, Marlene Grabow, Sally Grenz, Cherie Krueger,
AJ Marx, Mark Murie, Amanda Sagsveen, Tom Wade

Percussionist— Kari Harris

Violinist—Fynn Sagsveen

Accompanists—Luke Weber, Gerri Sarsten, Jan & Joel Gilbertson

Sunday Worship Coordinator—Peder Gulleson

Living Water Worship Team

Living Water Singers—Caroline Collins, Keira Collins, Joel Crane,
Annabelle Ellison, Brandi Ellison, Amanda Sagsveen

Percussionist—Kari Harris

Guitarists— Kolton Harris, Joel Crane, Peder Gulleson

Accompanist —Luke Weber

Sound—Peder Gulleson

Wednesday Worship Coordinator—Joel Crane

GOSPEL SONG: “*Lord Be Glorified*”

GOSPEL READING: Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. [

³⁷ On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸ Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹ Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” ⁴¹ Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” ⁴² While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ^{43a} And all were astounded at the greatness of God.]

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: *“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”*

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: *“The Spirit Intercedes”*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: *“Live Christ”*

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER: *Spoken*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *“Just a Closer Walk With Thee”*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: *“We Are Marching in the Light of God”* ELW 866

DISMISSAL

WEEKLY CALENDAR of March 2, 2025

Today, March 2:

River Practice 9:00 am
River Service 10:00am
Coffee Hour 11:00am
Living Water practice 5pm

Monday, March 3:

Needlework Group 9am

Tuesday, March 4:

Wednesday, March 5:

Supper 5 pm
Living Water Service 6:15 pm
Church School, Confirmation
River Practice 7pm

Thursday, March 6:

Quilting 1:00pm
AA Meeting 8pm

Friday, March 7:

Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, March 8:

Men’s Bible Study 10am

Sunday, March 9:

River Practice 9:00 am
River Service 10:00am
Coffee Hour 11:00am
Living Water practice 5pm

Upcoming Events

March 30 & April 2 Diorama making with peeps
April 25 & 26 Women’s Retreat at Camp of the Cross