

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

Phone: 223-1001

Website: [www.churchofthecross.org](http://www.churchofthecross.org)

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

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

**Staff:**

Lisa Ahlness, **Pastor**

Cell: 220.9011 / [lisaahlness@hotmail.com](mailto:lisaahlness@hotmail.com)

Connie Werner, **Secretary** cell 400.5852

Office 223-1001 / [churchsecretary@midconetwork.com](mailto:churchsecretary@midconetwork.com)

Art Wheeler, **Co-Treasurers**

527-9582/ [lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com](mailto:lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com)

Sarah Dahl, [sarahdahlmba@gmail.com](mailto:sarahdahlmba@gmail.com) 226.6844

Peder Gulleon, **Sunday Worship Coordinator**

680.8787/[theriver@midconetwork.com](mailto:theriver@midconetwork.com)

Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

498-2604/[cranejoel58@gmail.com](mailto:cranejoel58@gmail.com)

**2025 Church Council Members**

Scot Long, President, [scotglong@gmail.com](mailto:scotglong@gmail.com) 400.2169

Mike Geiermann, Vice President, [mgeiermann12@gmail.com](mailto:mgeiermann12@gmail.com) 471.5122

Jessi Karvo, Secretary, [jfish321@gmail.com](mailto:jfish321@gmail.com) 426.7439

Janice Martin, [mrladyj2000@gmail.com](mailto:mrladyj2000@gmail.com) 471.5600

Rod Sargent, [randdebsarge@beu.midco.net](mailto:randdebsarge@beu.midco.net) 880.8238

Molly Traynor, [mktraynor@hotmail.com](mailto:mktraynor@hotmail.com) 202.0891

Kathryn Spilman, [healthandskinbykathryn@gmail.com](mailto:healthandskinbykathryn@gmail.com) 527.6867

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

February 23, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**February 23, 2025**

**INTRODUCTION** Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God’s glory revealed in Christ.

*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:** *“Blessed Be the Ties that Bind”, “Softly and Tenderly”*

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING SONG:** *“Come Now is the Time to Worship”*

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** *“Mighty to Save”*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*We Hear God’s Word*

**FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15**

*Joseph forgives his brothers*

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.

**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!**

Are you feeling overwhelmed by life? Come away for a day to refresh and renew your spirit!

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 stall 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!

## 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 February: Ministry on the Margins Coffee House**  
MOTM is a place of safety and rest throughout the night for those in need. All people are welcome. Food and coffee are served to those who spend the night. Some great needs are disposable hand and foot warmers (such as “Hot Hands”), protein or granola bars, jerky packs or beef sticks, decaf coffee and powdered coffee creamer. (Blankets too, if you have some!) Your donations will help a ministry that serves those who are often forgotten at a time when many are at risk from the cold. Thank you!

Please continue to support the **Emergency Food Pantry** in whatever way you can. There are people in need.

Helping Hands would like to thank **the confirmation youth** and **church school children** for helping make Valentines for our LCC special members in the congregation!  
Thank you for your assistance! Helping Hands committee



We are grateful for our talented artists who put up the varied, interesting and inspiring **seasonal bulletin boards** in the narthex. Lillian Crook created the universe currently displayed. We will be needing new ones for Lent (begins March 5) and Easter (April 20) seasons. Let the office or Pastor Lisa know if you will do one!

<sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

### **RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40**

The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace. *(Ps. 37:11)*

<sup>1</sup>Do not fret because of the wicked;  
do not be envious of wrongdoers,  
<sup>2</sup>**for they will soon fade like the grass,  
and wither like the green herb.**  
<sup>3</sup>Trust in the LORD, and do good;  
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.  
<sup>4</sup>**Take delight in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.**  
<sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him, and he will act.  
<sup>6</sup>**He will make your vindication shine like the light,  
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.**  
<sup>7</sup>Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,  
over those who carry out evil devices.  
<sup>8</sup>**Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.  
Do not fret — it leads only to evil.**

<sup>9</sup>For the wicked shall be cut off,  
but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

<sup>10</sup>**Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;  
though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.**

<sup>11</sup>But the meek shall inherit the land,  
and delight themselves in abundant prosperity

<sup>39</sup>**The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;  
he is their refuge in the time of trouble.**

<sup>40</sup>The LORD helps them and rescues them;  
he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them,  
because they take refuge in him.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

### *The mystery of the resurrection of the body*

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

## **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 Saylor, Arvid Mugaas, Diane Klein, Libby Martin, Kira Willadsen, Kerry Carpenter, Linda Marson, Lonnie Sunde, Jacob Hynek, Art Wheeler, Reece Fischer, Lindsey Steiger, Lyndon Jahner, Joel Crane, Paul Kuch, Christ Gerr, Sher Harildstad, Pr. Phil Leer, Peg Ahlness, Jeff Thomas, Dana Wheeler, 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**—Suzanne Toso

**Ushers**—Alex & Kathryn Spilman, Floy Marx & Roger Krueger

**Communion Assistants**—Mavis Pommerer, Heather Martin, Janice Martin

**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:** “*Pass It On*”

**GOSPEL READING: Luke 6:27-38**

*Love your enemies*

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup> “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: "Goodness of God"

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: "The Spirit Intercedes"

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: "Offering"

*WE SHARE THE MEAL*

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER: *Spoken*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: "Precious Lord Take My Hand"

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: "Lord Reign In Me"

DISMISSAL

## WEEKLY CALENDAR of February 23, 2025

**Today, February 23:**

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

**Monday, February 24:**

Needlework Group 9am

**Tuesday, February 25:**

**Wednesday, February 26:**

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

**Thursday, February 27:**

Quilting 1:00pm  
AA Meeting 8pm

**Friday, February 28:**

Wired Word 1:30pm

**Saturday, March 1:**

Men's Bible Study 10am

**Sunday, March 2:**

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

### **Upcoming Events**

April 25 & 26 Women's Retreat at Camp of the Cross