

Lutheran Church of the Cross  
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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

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*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

March 9, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**March 9, 2025**

**INTRODUCTION** These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God’s grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God’s love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

*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:** “Everlasting Arms”

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING SONG:**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*We Hear God’s Word*

**FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the

If you have an empty shoebox or two bring them ahead of time please.

**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’ 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

## 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

The **Easter flowers order blank** is found at the back of the church and in the narthex. Please return the form in the offering basket or to the secretary no later than March 21 so the order can be placed.

**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. →

place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup>You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.” <sup>4</sup>When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, <sup>5</sup>you shall make this response before the Lord your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup>When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup>we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup>The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup>and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. <sup>11</sup>Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

### **RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16**

<sup>1</sup>You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
<sup>2</sup>will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust.”  
<sup>9</sup>Because you have made the LORD your refuge,  
the Most High your dwelling place,  
<sup>10</sup>no evil shall befall you,  
no scourge come near your tent.  
<sup>11</sup>For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.  
<sup>12</sup>On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.  
<sup>13</sup>You will tread on the lion and the adder,  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.  
<sup>14</sup>Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.

<sup>15</sup>When they call to me, I will answer them;

I will be with them in trouble,

I will rescue them and honor them.

<sup>16</sup>With long life I will satisfy them,

and show them my salvation.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13**

<sup>8b</sup> "The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup> because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup> The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

## **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**—Alex Spilman

**Ushers**—Steve & Cheryl Neu, Alex & Kathryn Spilman

**Communion Assistants**—Roger & Esther Anderson, Myrtice Behan

**Altar Guild**—Cherie Krueger, Sharon Narum, Joyce Wahl

**Faith and Care Group 4** —Pam & Ron Lee, Molly & Ken Traynor

**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, Mike Geiermann, Marlene Grabow, Sally  
Grenz, Eve Kath, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Mark Murie, Amanda  
Sagsveen, Gerri Sarsten, 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

### **Dakota Pro Musica presents Bach’s St. John Passion Date Correction!!**

For the first time in 40 years, one of Bach’s larger masterpieces will be performed right here in Bismarck at Trinity Lutheran Church by Dakota Pro Musica, the Bismarck Mandan Civic Chorus, and the Bismarck Mandan Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, March 22, at 7 pm. (Dakota Pro Musica, a professional vocal ensemble, features our own Luke Weber, along with other talented musicians!) Tickets are available in person at Trinity Lutheran Church, Eckroth Music, and Mayo Pharmacy for \$20/person or \$50 /family until March 20. Then the price goes up to \$25/person. Or look up Dakota Pro Musica on Facebook for the link to buy tickets online.

## **GOSPEL SONG:**

### **GOSPEL READING: Luke 4:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’ ”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’ ”

<sup>9</sup> Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,  
to protect you,’

<sup>11</sup> and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY:

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: *"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"*

*WE SHARE THE MEAL*

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER: *Spoken*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *"Beautiful Things"*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: *"Jesus is Rock in a Weary Land"*

DISMISSAL

## WEEKLY CALENDAR of March 9, 2025

**Today, March 9:**

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

**Monday, March 10:**

Needlework Group 9am

**Tuesday, March 11:**

**Wednesday, March 12:**

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

**Thursday, March 13:**

NO Quilting  
AA Meeting 8pm

**Friday, March 14:**

Wired Word 1:30pm

**Saturday, March 15:**

Men's Bible Study 10am

**Sunday, March 16:**

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

### **Upcoming Events**

March 30 & April 2 Diorama making with peeps  
First Communion class April 12th  
April 25 & 26 Women's Retreat at Camp of the Cross