

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:

Lisa Ahlness, **Pastor**

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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
March 23, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

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

INTRODUCTION The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God’s invitation to attentiveness: “Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.” The landowner’s ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener’s readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

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: *“God is So Good”*

SERVICE OF LIGHT PROCESSION (sung)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN EVENING HYMN (sung)

EVENING THANGSGIVING (sung)

PSALM 149 (sung)

MEDITATION PRAYER

CHILDRENS SERMON

We Hear God’s Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

WEEKLY CALENDAR of March 23, 2025

Today, Sunday, March 23:

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

Monday, March 24:

Needlework Group 9am

Tuesday, March 25:

Wednesday, March 26:

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

Thursday, March 27:

Quilting 1:00pm
AA Meeting 8pm

Friday, March 28:

Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, March 29:

Men’s Bible Study 10am

Sunday, March 30:

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

Upcoming Events

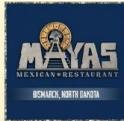
April 25 & 26 Women’s Retreat at Camp of the Cross

Gospel PraiSing FIESTA!

NOURISH THE BODY NOURISH THE SOUL

Mayas Mexican
Restaurant

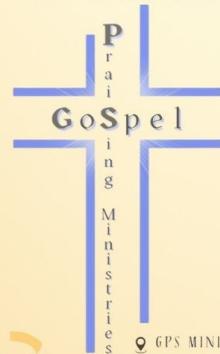
1601 W. Century Ave
Bismarck
Lunch -order off menu



Christian Music
Presented by:
Colleen Reinhardt
Julie Ternes
& Guests

SUNDAYS
11:30AM-1:30PM

January 5th
January 19th
February 9th
February 23rd
March 9th
March 23rd
April 6th
April 27th
May 4th
May 18th
June 8th
June 22nd
August 24th-Gospel
PraiSing Festival



Presented By: Gospel PraiSing (GPS) Ministries
JULIE TERNES 701-226-0356



²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 63:1-8

¹**O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

²So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.

³**Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.**

⁴So I will bless you as long as I live;

I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

**⁵My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips**

⁶when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

**⁷for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.**

⁸My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.

GOSPEL Luke 13:1-9

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.²[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

MEDITATION

Leader:
The light shines in the darkness

All:
And the darkness has not overcome it.

THE ANNUNCIATION (sung)

Sunday Hosts and Dishwasher always needed! Fellowship time after Sunday worship is one of the highlights of the week for many of us. If you haven't stayed-make an effort to calm your schedule for another half hour and join us. Of course, we could just drink coffee—but the treat proved by some,— cookies, donuts, breads, muffins—store bought or homemade—really add to the “flavor” of the time together. And naturally even just coffee cups need to be washed. Check your schedule and sign up for a Sunday, with a friend if you like to host or to wash dishes (training provided—it's easy and quick! By the way, John Kraft has once again come and spent time here taking care of the coffee stains on all the coffee cups. They are now clean, bright and shiny due to his personal touch! We thank you John!

Youth Grade 4-12: **Youth Bash at Camp of the Cross!** Calling all camp fans and all who wanna have fun! There is a youth bash at CCM scheduled for March 28-30. Check out campofthecross.com for more info.

Did you know...that on LCC's website <https://churshofthecross.org> under the section “News to Use” there is a Google calendar that you can subscribe to? The calendar similar to the one that is in the CrossWord shows the church activities but specifically lists on Sunday and Wednesday church school and when they aren't being held. Check it out. Directions are immediately below for subscribing to the calendar which will then show up on your electronic calendar. The secretary would also like to remind the congregation that the bulletins are also on the website under the heading “Stream Online” just scroll down until you see the listing of four bulletins. Check out LCC's website. There is a wealth of information that Tom Harris has placed on the website for you to know what's happening at LCC. Thank you Tom for your diligent efforts to keep us informed.

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 ground, too, weather permitting.

Cost: \$80 for Friday/Saturday (supper in Garrison Friday @ the usual spot)
\$35 for Saturday only

Questions: call Sally Grenz 701.390.3049

Payment to LCC, memo Women's Retreat.

RSVP by April 17th please!

First Communion Class At LCC, all baptized children are welcome to receive communion, with parents' permission and a plan for instruction. 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. First communion will be celebrated on Maundy Thursday, April 17th, at the 7pm service. Let Pastor Lisa know of your children's interest! Please have your child watch "Prince of Egypt" before this class. It is a Disney movie from 1998. You can stream it or the church has 4 copies of the DVD to lend.

Easter is nice and late this year, which gives us the opportunity for great weather for our **Easter Egg Hunt!** After worship on Sunday, April 13th, palm Sunday= we will hunt up the goodies and your youngsters are invited. To prepare for the fun, we will need lots of plastic easter eggs and donations of small items and candy to put in them. Bring your donations to worship or to the office. Later we will need some help filling eggs and hiding them that day.

Church Swag for 2025! 2025 is the 70th anniversary of the founding of Lutheran Church of the Cross. We will celebrate a few different ways this year. The first one is offering another opportunity for everyone to order LCC "Church Swag," that is, clothing items and thermal mugs with the colorful LCC logo on them. The online store has opened already and will run til midnight on March 31. You can go there directly at the link: <https://churchofthecross2025.itemorder.com/shop/home/> Or pick up a paper flyer in the narthex to look at all the options (different colors will only show online). There is a QR code on the flyer to take you to the online store, plus the link above, plus, contact info if you should have any questions about items. Watch for your friends who ordered in the fall to be showing their love of LCC by modeling their swag, too.

THE MAGNIFICAT (sung)

LITANY AND PRAYERS (sung)

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG: *"Give Thanks"*

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION SONG: *"Seek Ye First"*
"Let Us Break Bread Together"

COMMUNION BLESSING

FINAL BLESSING

DISMISSAL

SENDING SONG: *"You Shine"*

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Janet Doerner

Ushers—Janice & Keven Martin, John Kraft & Floy Marx

Communion Assistants—Doug Johnson, Tracy Wolf, Mavis Pommerer

Altar Guild—Cherie Krueger, Sharon Narum

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

River Worship Team—

Sound Board Technicians— Karen Will, Larry Wolf

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

Streaming Team— Mark Kunze, Art Wheeler, Karen Will

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

Percussionist— Kari Harris

Violinist—Fynn Sagsveen

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

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— Joel Crane, Peder Gulleson, Kolton Harris

Accompanist —Luke Weber

Sound—Peder Gulleson

Wednesday Worship Coordinator—Joel Crane

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, 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, Joyce Wahl, Steve Krogstad, Jeff Christianson

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.
April: The Language of Cottonwoods by Clay Jenkinson

Our main Lenten Altar Focus continues to be Sweet Deal for CAR. (When the tubes) arrive 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!

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!

New Member Class TODAY March 23 Are you interested in joining or learning more about Lutheran Church of the Cross? You are invited to join Pastor Lisa on **today**, 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!

Are there **third or fourth graders** in our congregation who are desiring a Bible and haven’t received one yet? Please contact the church office if you are.