

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**

Cell: 220.9011 / lisaahlness@hotmail.com

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2025 Church Council Members

Scot Long, President, scotglong@gmail.com 400.2169

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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
March 30, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
March 30, 2025

INTRODUCTION The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

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: “Goodness of God”, “God of Wonders”

SERVICE OF LIGHT PROCESSION (sung)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN EVENING HYMN (sung)

EVENING THANGSGIVING (sung)

PSALM 149 (sung)

MEDITATION PRAYER

CHILDRENS SERMON

WEEKLY CALENDAR of March 30, 2025

Today, Sunday, March 30:

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

Monday, March 31:

Needlework Group 9am

Tuesday, April 1:

Wednesday, April 2:

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

Thursday, April 3:

Quilting 1:00pm
AA Meeting 8pm

Friday, April 4:

Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, April 5:

Men’s Bible Study 10am

Sunday, April 6:

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

Upcoming Events

Beer & Hymns April 7 7-9pm Mandan Eagles
Worship & Music Committee Mtg April 8 7:30pm
Maundy Thursday First Communion Service 7pm
Good Friday Tennabrae Service 7pm
Easter Vigil Service @ Faith Lutheran 7pm
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



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

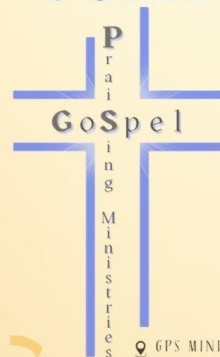
Christian Music

Presented by:

Colleen Reinhardt

Julie Ternes

& Guests



GPS MINISTRIES

Presented By: Gospel PraiSing (GPS) Ministries

JULIE TERNES 701-226-0356



We Hear God's Word

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



Thank you Eve Kath for the creation of the Lenten bulletin board.

GOSPEL Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 *The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son*

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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!

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.

The next meeting dates of **the Gospel of John Bible Study** will meet April 9th and the 23 at 7pm following the Wednesday worship service. On April 23 the last date will be determined.



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! Deadline is March 31. 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.

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

MEDITATION

Leader:

The light shines in the darkness

All:

And the darkness has not overcome it.

THE ANNUNCIATION (sung)

THE MAGNIFICAT (sung)

LITANY AND PRAYERS (sung)

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG: *"10,000 Reasons"*

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION SONG: *"Power to Redeem"*

COMMUNION BLESSING

FINAL BLESSING

DISMISSAL

SENDING SONG: *"I Love to Tell the Story"*

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Esther Anderson

Ushers—Kay Koch, Cheryl & Steve Neu

Communion Assistants—Mavis Pommerer, Roger & Esther Anderson

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 Gulleeson

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 Gulleeson, Kolton Harris

Accompanist —Luke Weber

Sound—Peder Gulleeson

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

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—Harry Schmidt

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!

Thank you Eve Kath for the creation of the Lenten bulletin board.