

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

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*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

March 16, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**March 16, 2025**

**INTRODUCTION** Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God’s desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God’s people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God’s face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who “comes in the name of the Lord.”

*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:** *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”* ELW 834

**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*

**SECOND READING** **Philippians 3:17—4:1**

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.

**Psalm 27.**

1The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

**2When evildoers assail me  
to devour my flesh —  
my adversaries and foes —  
they shall stumble and fall.**

3Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war rise up against me,  
yet I will be confident.

**4One thing I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:**

**to live in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the LORD,  
and to inquire in his temple.**

5For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will set me high on a rock.

**6Now my head is lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent**

**sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

7Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud,  
be gracious to me and answer me!

**8“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”  
Your face, LORD, do I seek.**

9Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger,  
you who have been my help.

Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,  
O God of my salvation!

**10If my father and mother forsake me,  
the LORD will take me up.**

11Teach me your way, O LORD,  
and lead me on a level path

because of my enemies.

**12Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,  
for false witnesses have risen against me,  
and they are breathing out violence.**

13I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living.

**14Wait for the LORD;**

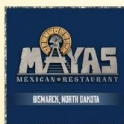
**be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

# 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

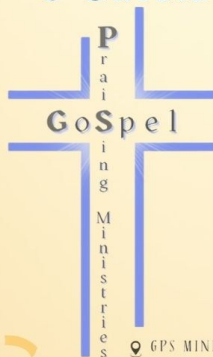
Christian Music

Presented by:

Colleen Reinhardt

Julie Ternes

& Guests



Presented By: Gospel PraiSing (GPS) Ministries

JULIE TERNES 701-226-0356



<sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

## GOSPEL Luke 13:31-35

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.’ <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

**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)

**SERMON** Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING SONG:** *“Lamb of God”* ELW 336

**OFFERING PRAYER**

*WE SHARE THE MEAL*

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** *“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”* ELW 597

**COMMUNION BLESSING**

**FINAL BLESSING**

**DISMISSAL**

**SENDING SONG:** *“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”* ELW 338

**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!

**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 shine due to his personal touch! We thank you John!

**Repairs, repairs and more repairs.** Paul Gurholt and John Kraft were also here this week gluing down the laminate in the kitchen and the conference table in the copier room. Also, the mechanism to the women’s bathroom (allowing the door to be used with a push of a button) was pulled out of the door left hanging. John Kraft took care of that minor problem. Thankfully we have talented men who give so freely of their time.

The **Easter Lily order blank** has been placed in the narthex and at the back of the church. There is a variety of flowers to choose from to make the sanctuary beautiful. Deadline is March 21 so the order can be placed for Easter.

**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.

The **Church Council** is meeting this Sunday at 6:30pm.

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.

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](http://campofthecross.com) for more info.

**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 Sway," 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 to you 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.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR of March 16, 2025

**Today, March 16:**

**River Practice 9:00 am**  
**River Service 10:00am**  
**Coffee Hour 11:00am**  
**Living Water practice 5pm**  
**Church Council 6:30pm**

**Monday, March 17:**

**Needlework Group 9am**

**Tuesday, March 18:**

**Wednesday, March 19:**

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

**Thursday, March 20:**

**Quilting 1:00pm**  
**AA Meeting 8pm**

**Friday, March 21:**

**Wired Word 1:30pm**

**Saturday, March 22:**

**Men's Bible Study 10am**

**Sunday, March 23:**

**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

## “THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Lillian Crook

**Ushers**—Tracy & Mike Geiermann, Larry & Verlaine Jahner

**Communion Assistants**—Janice Martin, Heather Martin, Kay Koch

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

**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, Doug Johnson,  
Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Mark Murie, Amanda Sagsveen, Tom Wade

**Percussionist**— Kari Harris

**Violinist**—Fynn Sagsveen

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

**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

### **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

## 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 16** 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.