

**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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2025 Church Council Members

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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



**Lutheran Church of the Cross
February 1, 2026**

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing", "Do Justice"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "Rise Up, O Saints of God"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the LORD says:
Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.



1601 W. Century Ave, Bismarck, ND
Lunch - order off menu
(at patron's expense)

Jan. 4 - Jennifer Braun & Kathy Perkerewicz

January 25 - Shana Klee



February 8 - Clarence Sayler

February 22 - Kimberly Fix & Jennifer Braun

March 8 - DeAnn Bueligen

March 22 - Leon & Alicia Heick

April 12 - Keylee Hertz Barnett



Free-will donations will assist ND Adult & Teen Challenge.

Presented by: Gospel PraiSing (GPS) Ministries
Julie Ternes 701-226-0356

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9a R. Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water practice	2 Stitching 9am 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water practice	3 Stitching 9am	4 5p Supper 6:15 L. Water 7p Church School Confirmation River Practice	5 1p Quilting 6:30 Church Council	6 1:30 W/ired Word	7 Men's Bible Study 10 am
8 9a R. Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water practice	9 Stitching 9am	10	11 Book Club 1:30 5p Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Con- firmation	12 1p Quilting	13 1:30 W/ired Word	14 Men's Bible Study 10 am Valentine's Day
15 9a R. Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water practice	16 Stitching 9am President's Day	17	18 Ash Wednesday 5p Lenten Supper 6:15 Service No school, or confirmation River practice	19 10:30 Gather Bible Study 1p Quilting	20 1:30 W/ired Word	21 Men's Bible Study 10 am
22 9a R. Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water practice	23 Stitching 9am	24	25 5p Lenten Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Con- firmation River practice	26 1p Quilting	27 1:30 W/ired Word	28 Men's Bible Study 10am

³ "O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

⁶ "With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 15

¹ O LORD, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?

² Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right
and speak the truth from their heart;

³ who do not slander with their tongue
and do no evil to their friends
nor heap shame upon their neighbors;

⁴ in whose eyes the wicked are despised
but who honor those who fear the LORD;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;
⁵ who do not lend money at interest
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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.
Led by Marjo Hewitson followed by her fearless readers.
February—The Briar Club by Kate Quinn
March—The Quiet Librarian by Allen Erskin
April—Theo of Golden by Allen Levi
May—The Correspondent by Virginia Evans
June—Wild Dark Shores by Charlotte McConnaghy
July—Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid
August—Hamnet by Maggie O’Farrell

Communion Assistants, Ushers, Scripture Readers. You are needed! Fill out the schedule that’s in the narthex.

We are always willing to add people to the **prayer list** when prayers are needed. By the same token when they need to come off the prayer list the office would appreciate being told.

The Annual Report, Audit Report and Budget documents are available in the narthex for your taking.

The new **2026 directory** is out in the narthex. Take a copy.

The Men’s Retreat at Camp of the Cross has been cancelled due to low numbers. They will try to reschedule the retreat this spring. Details will be posted as we learn of them.

Looking for a new way to participate in the life of this church? Tracy Geiermann is establishing **CONNECTIONS**. More information to follow in the upcoming newsletter.

We thank Jay Rath for conducting the audit review on LCC’s 2025 finances. Jay has done the audit review for LCC for the past two years. Thank you Jay!

Weekly Calendar of February 1, 2026

Today, February 1, 2026:

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

Monday, February 2, 2026:

Stitching Group 9am

Tuesday, February 3, 2026:

Wednesday, February 4, 2026:

Supper 5pm
Worship 6:15pm
Church School/Confirmation 7pm
River Practice 7pm

Thursday, February 5, 2026:

Quilting 1pm
Church Council 6:30 pm
AA Meeting 8pm

Friday, February 6, 2026:

Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, February 7, 2026:

Men's Bible Study 10am

GOSPEL SONG: "Jesus Messiah"

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: "Let Us Be the Church"

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: "Give Thanks"

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: "You Have Come Down to the Lake Shore"

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: "Soon and Very Soon"

"THE RIVER" and "LIVING WATER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Tracy Geiermann

Communion Assistants—Sheila Koffler, Tracy Wolf, Kay Koch

Ushers—Scot & Melissa Long, Kathryn & Alex Spilman

Altar Guild— Jean Kraft, Sarah Dahl, Cherie Krueger

Faith and Care Group 3—Melissa & Jay Volk, Marylee Gregware & Daniel McKinney

River Worship Team—

Sound Board Technicians—Larry Wolf, Karen Will.

Projection Team—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, Paul Gurholt, Doug Johnson, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Kathy Morrison, Mark Murie, Deb Patterson, Amanda Sagsveen

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

For those struggling with health and other concerns:

Tracy Martinson, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Hattie Martinson, Heidi Renner, Diane Klein, Libby Martin, Kira Willadsen, Sher Harildstad, Shirley Holder, Jerry Hanson, Joyce Wahl, Jeff Christianson, Arvid Mugaas, Pete Barrette, Heather Martin, Daryl Hodnefield, Lorna Mathais, Jagger Lindsey, Emmett Wolf, Don Becker, Connie Werner, Dave Kunze, Marvin Leer, Jim Kennedy, Janie Hague, George Harris, Ken Will, Laurie Stenehjem

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones:

Josey Hanson, Katie Leer, Peg Ahlness