

**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

January 18, 2026

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

January 18, 2026

Second Sunday After Epiphany

We Come Together

PRELUDE: “Goodness of God”, “Mighty to Save”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “Arise Your Light Has Come”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

We Hear God’s Word

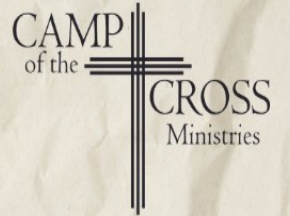
FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7

- ¹ Listen to me, O coastlands;
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born;
while I was in my mother’s womb he named me.
² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
³ And he said to me, “You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”
⁴ But I said, “I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord

Men’s Retreat 2026

Tentative Schedule

Jan. 30—Feb. 1



Friday:

1:00 - 3:00pm: Registration
3:00 - 4:00pm: Fellowship Time
4:00 - 5:30pm: Session 1 Bible Study
5:30 - 7:00pm: Supper and Fellowship Time
7:00pm and on: Free Time for the Remainder of the Night

**subject to change by
CCM staff as needed**

Saturday:

9:00 - 10:00am: Continental Breakfast
10:00 - 11:30am: Session 2 Bible Study
11:30am - 12:30pm: Free Time
12:30 - 1:30pm: Lunch
1:30 - 3:00pm: Service Project
3:00 - 4:30pm: Session 3 Bible Study
4:30 - 5:30pm: Group Activity/Free Time
5:30 - 7:00pm: Supper and Fellowship Time
7:00 - 8:30pm: Session 4 Bible Study
8:30pm and on: Free Time for the Remainder of the Night

Sunday:

9:00 - 10:00am: Breakfast
10:00 - 11:00am: Session 5 Bible Study
11:00 - 11:15am: Small Break
11:15am - 12:30pm: Session 6 Bible Study
12:30 - 1:30pm: Lunch
1:30pm: Dismissal and Goodbyes

Gospel PraiSing Fiesta!

Nourish the Body

Mayas Mexican
Restaurant



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

Nourish the Soul

SUNDAYS
11:30 AM-1:30 PM

Christian Music
presented by:
Colleen Reinhardt
Julie Ternes
& Guests

Jan. 4 - Jennifer Braun & Kathy Perkerewicz

January 25 - Shana Klee

February 8 - Clarence Saylor

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

⁵ And now the Lord says,
 who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
 and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,
 and my God has become my strength—
⁶ he says,
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
 to raise up the tribes of Jacob
 and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
 that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

⁷ Thus says the Lord,
 the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
 the slave of rulers,
“Kings shall see and stand up;
 princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
 the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 40:1-11

¹ I waited patiently for the Lord;
 he inclined to me and heard my cry.
² **He drew me up from the desolate pit,
 out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
 making my steps secure.**
³ He put a new song in my mouth,
 a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear
 and put their trust in the Lord

⁴ **Happy are those who make
the Lord their trust,
who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods.**

⁵ You have multiplied, O Lord my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;
none can compare with you.

Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
they would be more than can be counted.

⁶ **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.**

**Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required.**

⁷ Then I said, “Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

⁸ **I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart.”**

⁹ I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O Lord.

¹⁰ **I have not hidden your saving help within my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation.**

¹¹ Do not, O Lord, withhold
your mercy from me;
let your steadfast love and your faithfulness
keep me safe forever.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

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

Jesus & Women Bible Study: 1/21, 1/28 at 7:00 in the Youth Room.

The **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, January 25 following the service. Plan on staying after the meeting for a delicious, potluck meeting. Get your reports in to the secretary no later than **January 19**. The proposed budget for 2026 is out on the tables in the narthex. The other two reports: the Audit report and Annual Report information will be placed out in the narthex when done. For those interested in attending via Zoom let the church office know that so the Zoom link can be sent to you prior to day of the meeting.

January 19, the Martin Luther King Holiday Celebration will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church at 6pm. The two keynote speakers will be Ryan Taylor and Josh McNeil Jr.

Communion Assistants, Ushers, Scripture Readers. We need you! Fill out the schedule that’s in the narthex.

I would like to **thank you** all for the kindness, prayers and support through my mother’s illness and death. Thanks also to Pastor Sondra for the pastoral support, and to Helping Hands for the meal for my gathered family. We appreciate all these things so very much! Pastor Lisa

Weekly Calendar of January 18, 2026

Today, January 18, 2026: **River Practice 9am**
 River Service/ Church School 10 am
 Coffee Hour 11am
 Living Water practice 5pm

Monday, January 19, 2026: **Stitching Group 9am**

Tuesday, January 20, 2026:

Wednesday, January 21, 2026: **Supper 5pm**
 Worship 6:15pm
 Church School/Confirmation 7pm
 River Practice 7pm

Thursday, January 22, 2026: **Quilting 1pm**
 AA Meeting 8pm

Friday, January 23, 2026: **Wired Word 1:30pm**

Saturday, January 24, 2026: **Men’s Bible Study 10am**

UPCOMING: ANNUAL MEETING January 25

name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL SONG: “Jesus Messiah”

GOSPEL: John 1:29-42
29 [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!30 This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ 31 I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” 32 And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descend- ing from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” 39 He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). 42 He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: “Here I Am to Worship”

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: “Do Justice”

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER (Sung)

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG “Lamb of God”, “Precious Lord Take My Hand”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “Everlasting God”

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Tracy Wolf

Communion Assistants—Debbie Patterson, Doug Johnson, Melissa Long

Ushers—Scott & Melissa Long, Cheryl & Steve Neu

Altar Guild— Cherie Krueger, Ruth Jensen

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, JoDee Sayler, Diane Klein, Libby Martin, Kira Willadsen, Kerry Carpenter, 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

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones:

Josey Hanson, Katie Leer, Peg Ahlness