

**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**

**Staff:**

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# *The River*

A Blended Worship Service



**Lutheran Church of the Cross  
February 15, 2026**

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

## February 15, 2026

### *Transfiguration of Our Lord*

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

### **We Come Together**

**PRELUDE:** "Pass It On", "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** "'Shine Jesus Shine"

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **We Hear God's Word**

**FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18**

<sup>12</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." <sup>13</sup> So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup> To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup> The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for

# 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

# February 2026

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

six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup> Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. <sup>18</sup> Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

## RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 2

- <sup>1</sup> Why do the nations conspire  
and the peoples plot in vain?
- <sup>2</sup> **The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the Lord and his anointed, saying,**
- <sup>3</sup> “Let us burst their bonds apart  
and cast their cords from us.”
- <sup>4</sup> **He who sits in the heavens laughs;  
the Lord has them in derision.**
- <sup>5</sup> Then he will speak to them in his wrath  
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
- <sup>6</sup> **“I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill.”**
- <sup>7</sup> I will tell of the decree of the Lord:  
He said to me, “You are my son;  
today I have begotten you.
- <sup>8</sup> **Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage  
and the ends of the earth your possession.**
- <sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron  
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”
- <sup>10</sup> **Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth.**
- <sup>11</sup> Serve the Lord with fear;  
with trembling <sup>12</sup> kiss his feet,  
or he will be angry, and you will perish in the way,  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.  
Happy are all who take refuge in him.

## SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21

16 We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” 18 We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

19 So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, 21 because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

## GOSPEL SONG: “Alleluia”

## GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup> And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. <sup>3</sup> Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” <sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” <sup>8</sup> And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

We are ready to continue Season 2 of the critically acclaimed series, "**The Chosen**" based on the life of Jesus in the new testament and detailing his mission. Whether you've watched it already or not, anyone is welcome to join us! We'll be resuming Season 2, starting with Episode 4 based on the below schedule. All showings will be at the church, **(noon–2)** Sundays, with a repeat for anyone needing an alternate time set for Tuesdays at 5pm and includes a discussion afterwards. Hope you can join us! *Please not the time change on Sundays.*

Season 2 schedule:

**Episode 4 - *The Perfect Opportunity*:** February 22nd **(noon–2)** and February 24th (5pm)

**Episode 5 - *Spirit*:** March 8th **(noon–2)** and March 10th (5pm)

**Episode 6 - *Unlawful*:** March 22nd **(noon–2)** and March 24th (5pm)

**Episode 7 - *Reckoning*:** April 12th **(noon–2)** and April 14th (5pm)

**Episode 8 - *Beyond Mountains*:** April 26th **(noon–2)** and April 28th (5pm)

Join us beginning at 5 pm each **Wednesday in Lent for a soup supper** catered by Lady J's, followed by worship at 6:15pm. Ash Wednesday will be the first in this series, and worship will include imposition of ashes and communion.

Each following Wednesday, worship will follow our theme, **“Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News”** this Lent. Communion is always offered. These services will also be livestreamed. We hope you can come!

**The Altar Focus** this time around is the **Stepping Stone Ministries**. Stepping Stone Ministries is a new non-profit founded to provide transitional care for individuals experiencing homelessness who are too ill to return to the streets or shelters but no longer require, or qualify for, acute care or other healthcare destinations in the Bismarck/Mandan and surrounding areas. Some needed items are: All kinds of snack foods are welcome. Nonperishable food donations are welcome, to help with meal preparation. Please see their wonderful website, [steppingstoneministries.com](http://steppingstoneministries.com), which has an Amazon wish list, volunteer opportunities and how to donate. Brochures are available on the table in the narthex. Let's help this much needed new ministry succeed! Thank you for helping!

## **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. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Led by Marjo Hewitson followed by her fearless readers.

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

**The Annual Report, Audit Report and Budget documents** are available in the narthex for your taking. As well as the **2026 Directory**.

Looking for a new way to participate in the life of this church? Tracy Geiermann is establishing **CONNECTIONS**. CONNECTIONS is a time where Christians can come together and share their experiences and talents with others. A time to get out and connect with other individuals and hopefully take back something positive, exciting and new when you leave. We will meet on the first Tuesday of the month from 2-4 at the church. We will have coffee, goodies, and a different activity or speaker each month for those that want to participate. If not, you are welcome to just come and visit. On **March 3rd** we will be playing Bingo for an ice breaker to start out the program. A different program will be chosen every month. If you would like to join us but do not have a ride, please contact Connie, Lisa or myself at the church and we will compile a list. If you are an individual that would be available to pick someone else up, please also call us and we will be happy to make that CONNECTION. I hope that you will be as excited as I am about this new opportunity. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. God’s love to you all!  
Tracy Geiermann FCN

Come and add to the **interactive LENT bulletin board** created by Audrey Hoffer and mom, Lyndsey Hoffer. Thank you Audrey for your creativity.

**Easter** believe or not is coming soon. Anyone want to volunteer to create an Easter Bulletin Board?

**SERMON:** Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**SONG OF THE DAY:** “Blessed Be Your Name”

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING SONG:** “I Love to Tell the Story”

**OFFERING PRAYER**

## **WE SHARE THE MEAL**

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** “Great Are You Lord”

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG:** “Kyrie Eleison”

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

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness  
**Scripture Reader**—Deb Sargent  
**Communion Assistants**—Sheila Koffler, Tracy Wolf, Verlaine Jahner  
**Ushers**—Larry Jahner, Debbie Patterson, John Kraft  
**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 Stenehjerm, Elias Zachary Werner, Tonya Werner

**For those dealing with the death of these loved ones:**

Josey Hanson, Pr. Tim Johnson

**Weekly Calendar of February 15, 2026**

<b>Today, February 15, 2026:</b>	<b>River Practice 9am</b> <b>River Service/ Church School 10 am</b> <b>Coffee Hour 11:00am</b> <b>Living Water practice 5pm</b>
<b>Monday, February 16, 2026:</b>	<b>Stitching Group 9am</b> <b>Beer &amp; Hymns 7-9 Mdn Eagles</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 17, 2026:</b>	
<b>Wednesday, February 18, 2026:</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Lenten Supper 5pm</b> <b>Worship 6:15pm</b> <b>Church School/Confirmation 7pm</b> <b>River Practice 7pm</b>
<b>Thursday, February 19, 2026:</b>	<b>Gather Bible Study 10:30am</b> <b>Quilting 1pm</b> <b>AA Meeting 8pm</b>
<b>Friday, February 20, 2026:</b>	<b>Wired Word 1:30pm</b>
<b>Saturday, February 21, 2026:</b>	<b>Men’s Bible Study 10am</b>