



## The Cross Word March 2026

From Pastor Lisa

In our prayers for you we always thank God, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all. Colossians 1:3-4

Paul was writing to the followers of Jesus in Colossae, in Asia Minor (part of what is now Turkey), encouraging them as they learn to live their faith. They are facing practical and daily crises.

Not so much has changed, has it? As you've probably heard me say, there's never a shortage of things to pray about. I'm thankful for our Christian community at LCC, and for all the ways you support one another, pray for and serve others nearby and throughout the world – the love you have for all – as we, too, continue to learn to live our faith.

There is much going on this month! I want to draw your attention to the article on the Palm Sunday Path, an extraordinary event happening on Palm Sunday, and so many other opportunities to worship and serve together.

Blessings as we continue our journey in Lent. See you in church or online!

Pastor Lisa

### **Thrivent Action Team Grants**

If you are a Thrivent member, you have the ability to request up to two \$250 Action Team Grants each year. These can be used for education or outreach or service projects. You have probably also seen one of Thrivent's "Live Generously" t-shirts – a different design each year – that can be ordered for these projects. (Look up these grants at [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com)) For example, Ken Will wrote one recently to purchase hamburger to go along with the food we regularly donate to the Emergency Food Pantry. They were thrilled to be able to give 39 families some meat along with their food boxes! Others have been used to defray expenses for our pancake and sausage breakfasts, purchased Bibles for students, helped buy meat for our summer Wednesday picnics, bought pillows for the homeless shelter, etc. Only your imagination limits the possibilities! Don't forget to use this opportunity to serve others – we always have a "wish list" at church if you would like some ideas!

## First Communion Class

All third graders, and younger children who are expressing interest in communion and with their parents' permission, are invited to join Pastor Lisa for first communion instruction on Saturday, March 28th, from noon til 1:30 pm. We will also bake some communion bread, which will be used the following Thursday, April 2, as these students receive their first communion during the Maundy Thursday service.

Please let Pastor Lisa know your child is coming, so we can plan appropriately for ingredients, and if you have questions. \*\*also, please have your child (you, too, ideally!) watch "Prince of Egypt" before this class.\*\* It is a Disney movie from 1998. You can stream it if you prefer, or the church has 4 copies of the DVD to lend.



## Palm Sunday Path

You know that our Palm Sunday service begins with the procession with palms as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. On this Palm Sunday, March 29, we are going to make history with one of the largest Palm Sunday processions ever. Congregations in at least 15 states have committed to walking in the footsteps of Jesus as we process to state Capitol buildings across the Midwest proclaiming the Christian values named in Matthew 25 – healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and welcoming the stranger.

Our procession will begin at 3 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 502 N. 4th Street, and end on the steps of the North Dakota State Capitol. We will wave palms, sing songs, chant words of hope, and uplift one another along the 0.9 mile route. This is not a political procession, and no political signs will be allowed. People of all faiths and of no faith who share our values of healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and welcoming the stranger are invited to join anywhere along the route or on the steps of the Capitol as we begin worship together at 4 pm.

In many ways, the procession in Bismarck will look a lot like Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We'll wave palms, gather as everyday people, and proclaim love to our nation and to the world.

We need your help in inviting all of North Dakota to join – every congregation, every family, and every friend who shares these values. We want to fill the streets with songs proclaiming that love is greater than fear. So that many can attend, there'll be two processions in North Dakota – one in Bismarck and another in Fargo. Join in proclaiming good news as you share these details with other North Dakotans:

Bismarck on March 29: 3 pm – procession begins from Trinity Lutheran Church to ND State Capitol. 4 pm – worship begins on Capitol steps.

Fargo on March 29: 2:30 pm – procession begins from Hjemkomst Center to Fargo City Hall. 3 pm – worship at Fargo city hall.



### **Did you know:**

LCC council meetings are open to all members? In fact, our confirmands are asked to attend one, just to see how it works and what happens there. You are welcome to attend. If you should have an issue or concern that you would like to have discussed at council, please speak to the president or one of the council members to have it placed on the agenda. Their contact info is on the back of the Sunday bulletin, which you can pick up in church or look up online. Church council is meeting March 5th at 6:30pm.

### **Bulletin Board artists needed!**

Isn't it fun to see what people come up with for the various church seasons? We are looking for someone(s) to do bulletin boards for the Easter season. If you are an artist, love to browse Pinterest, or willing to do a project—let us know. Materials will be provided or reimbursed (just keep your retail slips.) A fun way to express our faith!

### **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 provided 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!)

### **Camp of the Cross scholarships available for campers!**

Have you ever been to Camp of the Cross, near Garrison? It is fantastic! Check out the brochures on the kids' table near the library and see all the summer opportunities for youth. The bulletin boards has upcoming retreats, as well!) We don't want cost to be an impediment to your child being able to have this fabulous camp experience. Scholarships are available. Please contact Pastor Lisa or treasurer Art Wheeler.

### **Scripture Circles**

Come share in a transformative method of studying the Bible that is accessible to all! No prior experience or knowledge is needed; we are led by scripture teacher U.S. Jones II. A light supper will be served starting at 5 pm; study begins at 5:45 pm. A free will offering will be collected, but the events are FREE. Join us at McCabe Methodist Church (1030 N. 6th Street) this month on Thursday, March 12. All are welcome!

**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



## LCC Women's Retreat at Camp of the Cross

### Peace with Nature Devotionals

All are welcome to join us for: **THE WOMEN'S RETREAT**: scheduled for May 1 & 2, 2026 at Camp of the Cross. Costs: full weekend of staying 1 night including 2 meals on Saturday will be \$85.00 or if you come for Saturday only the cost will be \$40.00 (including meals). We will try to follow healthy guidelines while enjoying time together safely! Questions? Please call Sally at 701.390.3049 or e mail [sallygrenz@hotmail.com](mailto:sallygrenz@hotmail.com) to let her know you are coming and send the payment to Lutheran Church of the Cross with Women's Retreat on the memo line.

Costs: \$85. for Friday/Saturday or \$35. for Saturday only.

Questions & RSVP by April 20th call Sally Grenz 701.390.3049 Payment to LCC, Memo: Women's Retreat

### Refresh Committee

**A small committee** is forming to brainstorm some renewal ideas for the entryways and common space. If you have suggestions or ideas, please join us! The first meeting will be held Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5 PM. If you are unable to attend but have input, please email Molly Traynor at [mktraynor@hotmail.com](mailto:mktraynor@hotmail.com). Ideas will be shared with church council. A follow up meeting is scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM. Look forward to listening, learning, and refreshing our entry spaces at LCC.

### Don't Forget to Designate Your Thrivent Choice Dollars!

If you are a Thrivent member, you may have Thrivent Choice dollars to designate to a charity or charities of your choice. Many of your favorites are eligible, such as Lutheran Church of the Cross, Missouri Slope, and Camp of the Cross, to name a few! To do this costs you nothing, and is a great help to your beloved charities. If you're not sure whether you can do this, contact your Thrivent agent. Choice dollars must be designated by the end of March. What a wonderful opportunity to be generous!

### Daylight Savings Times begins March 8!

It's time to Spring Ahead! I saw a chart saying we will gain up to 100 minutes of daylight per day by the end of March! Hurray! Of course, our bodies will have to adjust again to daylight savings time, which begins this Sunday, March 8. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead an hour before you retire Saturday night.



### Beer n Hymns on March 23!

Come join in at the Mandan Eagles, downstairs, on Monday, March 23rd from 7-9 pm as we share fellowship and sing to our heart's content. Beverages are available; all ages are welcome. Nice bright venue, great sound system, and terrific musicians await – and you get to choose what we sing! Hope you can come!

### **Sweet Deal for CAR – our Lenten Altar Focus**

For some years, we have made a special effort during Lent to support our companion Lutheran church in the Central African Republic (CAR). We are grateful to have been able to support them after and during times of war and unrest, building schools and churches, training teachers, equipping pastors and evangelists with motorbikes, digging wells, and supporting clinics and a women's center. Your generosity makes a big difference!! Enjoy a tube of mini m&ms, available on the ushers' tables, then fill the tube with your currency of choice: coins, bills or a check – made out to LCC; be sure to memo it "CAR" so it can be properly designated. Thank you!

### **Peep Dioramas! Hurray!!**

Yes, it is almost time for peep dioramas! On Wednesday, March 18, and Sunday, March 22, our young people are invited to choose a favorite Bible story and create a diorama illustrating it, using craft materials and marshmallow peeps – we will provide boxes and materials!! After worship on these days, you are invited to come create yours! Adults are welcome to guide and help – it's lots of fun to see the creativity shine! Dioramas will be displayed afterward for all to enjoy!

### **Easter Egg Hunt March 29**

March 29 is Palm Sunday, and also the day of our Easter Egg Hunt! We are hoping for good weather – the trend is favorable so far! But as we know from last year, it's just as much fun if we have to move inside. You are welcome to bring small candy to fill the eggs – we need it here by March 25. Kids can bring their own baskets, or will be provided with a bag. Older youth are welcome to help – please let Tom Harris or Pastor Lisa know you'd like to!

### **Lent and Holy Week Worship**

Our Wednesday Lenten services continue at 6:15 pm after a soup supper that begins at 5 pm. Our theme is "Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News this Lent."

There is no Wednesday worship during Holy Week (April 1), but Maundy Thursday service will be Thursday, April 2 at 7 pm. Good Friday Tenebrae service will be at 7 pm on Friday, April 3. The ecumenical Easter Vigil is at 7 pm on Saturday, April 4, at the UCC church. And, the highlight of our Christian year, our Easter services are at 8:30 am and 10 am, with a light breakfast in between. Please come early and enjoy an extended musical prelude before the 10 am service!



Register now for our Spring Youth Bash 2026 - coming up in April!! ☐

Open to grades 4-12, with adult chaperones welcomed too, this event is sure to be a great time! This bash is a 3 day, 2 night event packed with Camp fun!

Campers will arrive on Friday evening for registration and will launch straight into fun activities through Sunday morning at pick-up time. Activities include, but not limited to: lifestory bible studies, all camp games, movie night, gaga, delicious meals, crafts, campfire worship, and more!

Camp scholarships are available. Contact the office.



# SPRING YOUTH BASH!



**Join us for a weekend filled with games, worship, adventure, bible study, delicious food, and many other fun activities!**

*Youth are supervised by trained staff members, and adult chaperones are welcome too!*

**Friday, April 17 - Sunday, April 19**



\$55 for the whole event  
Open to Grades: 4-12  
Meals provided

For more information or to register, please contact us by:



Visiting Our Website  
[www.campofthecross.com](http://www.campofthecross.com)



Calling Us  
701-337-2246



Emailing Us  
[info@campofthecross.com](mailto:info@campofthecross.com)

# March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9a R. Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water	<b>2</b> Stitching 9am	<b>3</b> Connections 3pm Refresh Mtg 5 pm	<b>4</b> 5p Lenten Supper 6:15 L. Water 7p Church School Confirmation River Practice	<b>5</b> 1p Quilting 5:30 Worship & Music 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	<b>9</b> Stitching 9am	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Book Club 1:30 5p Lenten Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Confirmation River practice	<b>12</b> 1p Quilting	<b>13</b> 1:30 Wired Word	<b>14</b> Men's Bible Study 10 am
<b>15</b> 9a R.Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water	<b>16</b> Stitching 9am	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Dioramas 5p Lenten Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, 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> Dioranmas 9a R.Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water	<b>23</b> Stitching 9am Beer & Hymns 7p	<b>24</b> Refresh Mtg 5 pm	<b>25</b> 5p Lenten Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Confirmation River practice	<b>26</b> 1p Quilting	<b>27</b> 1:30 Wired Word	<b>28</b> Men's Bible Study 10am
<b>29</b> Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt 9a R. Practice 10am River 11am Coffee	<b>30</b> Stitching 9am	<b>31</b>				



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churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

## E-News

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### Worship Times:

Wednesday Worship  
6:15pm (School year)  
Sunday Worship  
The River Service  
10:00am

Lisa Ahlness, Pastor

### Office Hours:

M -TH 8-4pm  
Fri. 8-noon School Year  
Summer Hours 8—noon  
Mon.—Fri

**Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts**