

**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**

Cell: 220.9011 / lisaahlness@hotmail.com

Connie Werner, **Secretary** cell 400.5852

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2026 Church Council Members

Mike Geiermann, President, mgeiermann12@gmail.com 471.5122

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The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

March 1, 2026

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

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LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

March 1, 2026

Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "What Wondrous Love is This", "God Loved the World"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "Lift High the Cross"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

The blessing of God upon Abram

¹ The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a} So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

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

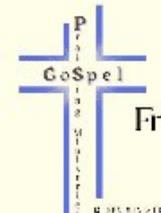
February 8 - Clarence Saylor

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
1 9a R. Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water practice	2 Stitching 9am	3	4 5p Supper 6:15 L. Water 7p Church School Confirmation River Practice	5 1p Quilting 6:30 Church Council	6 1:30 Wired 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 1:30 Book Club 5p Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Con- firmation	12 1p Quilting	13 1:30 Wired 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 Wired 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 Wired Word	28 Men's Bible Study 10am

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the *Lord*. (Ps. 121:1, 2)

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
- ² **My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**
- ³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
- ⁴ **He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**
- ⁵ The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
- ⁶ **The sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night.**
- ⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
- ⁸ **The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

The promise to those who share Abraham's faith

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

GOSPEL SONG: "Good Soil"

GOSPEL John 3:1-17

The mission of Christ: to save the world

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?" ¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?" ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

All Women (young or older) LCC members and friends this is for you!
Topic: **Peace with Nature Devotionals** and enjoy the camp setting!
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 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. Please RSVP to Sally Grenz by April 20th!

"The Chosen" series based on the life of Jesus in the new testament and detailing his mission.is continuing here at LCC. 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! Season 2 schedule:

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. 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, 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

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.

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

The **Lenten C.A.R. M&M tubes** are placed in the back of the church. Take yours and fill it with quarters or a checks to help the peoples of the Central African Republic. Thank you.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: “Lord, Be Glorified”

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “Blessed Assurance”

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Weekly Calendar of March 1, 2026

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Janet Doerner

Communion Assistants—Roger & Esther Anderson, Doug Johnson

Ushers—Janice & Keven Martin, Tracy Geiermann

Altar Guild—Cherie Krueger, Deb Sargent, Valerie Kunz

Faith and Care Group 4—Molly & Ken Traynor, Kelly & Wayne Olson

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:

Pr. Tim Johnson

Today, March 1, 2026:

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

Monday, March 2, 2026:

Stitching Group 9am

Tuesday, March 3, 2026:

**Connections: Bingo 2—4pm
Decorating/Refreshing Committee
Mtg 5pm**

Wednesday, March 4, 2026:

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

Thursday, March 5, 2026:

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

Friday, March 6, 2026:

Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, March 7, 2026:

Men's Bible Study 10am