

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

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The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
March 22, 2026

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

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LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Lent

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "The Heart of Worship", "Let the River Flow"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "Kyrie Eleison"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14 *The dry bones of Israel brought to life*

¹ The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and

Attention: LCC Thrivent Clients!!

Remember to direct Choice Dollars® before March 31 to support Lutheran Church of the Cross. Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice. The Thrivent Choice® program is a powerful way to support LCC. Through this program, Thrivent clients with membership can direct how Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable grant funding. To see if you have Choice Dollars® available, log in to your Thrivent account, click "Direct Choice Dollars," and select Lutheran Church of the Cross, Bismarck, ND. We appreciate your support.

A new quarter is right around the corner and **sign-ups** are direly needed for **Communion Assistants, Ushers and Scripture Readers**. Can we count on you to help out? Thank you.

Speaking of a new quarter the daily devotional, **Christ in Our Home** is here.. Get your copy near the front & back doors.

Thank you to all who have donated to the Heat the Church campaign. It's a great way to honor your loved ones by recognizing their birthdays, anniversaries and other special events.

Beer & Hymns, Monday, March 23 7pm Mandan Eagles.

Thank you Pastor Sondra for being with us Wednesday, for the Gather Bible Study on Thursday and today. We are so blessed to have you always being willing to help out where and when needed. Thank you for your insights and wisdom that you shared today.

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9a R. Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water	2 Stitching 9am	3 Conne- tions 3pm Refresh Mtg	4 5p Lenten Supper 6:15 L. Water 7p Church School Confirmation River Practice	5 1p Quilting 5:30 Worship & Music 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	9 Stitching 9am	10	11 Book Club 1:30 5p Lenten Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Confirmation River practice	12 1p Quilting	13 1:30 Wired Word	14 Men's Bible Study 10 am
15 9a R. Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water	16 Stitching 9am	17	18 Dioramas 5p Lenten Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Confirmation River practice	19 10:30 Gather Bible Study 1p Quilting	20 1:30 Wired Word	21 Men's Bible Study 10 am
22 Dioramas 9a R. Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water	23 Stitching 9am Beer & Hymns 7p	24 Refresh Mtg 5 pm	25 5p Lenten Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Confirmation River practice	26 1p Quilting	27 1:30 Wired Word	28 Men's Bible Study 10am
29 Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt 9a R. Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water	30 Stitching 9am	31				

skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 130

I wait for you, O *Lord*; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

² Lord, hear my voice!

**Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!**

³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

**⁴ But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.**

⁵ I wait for the LORD; my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

**⁶ my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.**

⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.

**⁸ It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11 *Life in the Spirit*

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL SONG: "Ancient Words"

GOSPEL John 11:1-45 *Baptismal image: the raising of Lazarus*

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and

Peeps Diorama today! All you young at heart come join in the fun after church.

"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, Sundays at 11:30, 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 7 - Reckoning: March 29 (11:30) and March 31 (5pm)

Episode 8 - Beyond Mountains: April 12th (11:30) and April 14th (5pm)

Easter Egg Hunt next Sunday. Will it be inside or outside? Spring or winter outside? We'll have to wait until that very day to find out where the hunt will be. Come and have some fun exploring.

The Easter flower order blank is at the back of the church and in the narthex.

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:

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.

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

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.

All Women (young or older) LCC members and friends,

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). Questions? Please call Sally at 701.390.3049 or email sallygrenz@hotmail.com to let her know you are coming. Send payment to LCC with Women's Retreat on the memo line. Please RSVP to Sally Grenz by April 20th!

many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

SERMON: Pastor Sondra Krogstad

SONG OF THE DAY: “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: “I Believe, I Do Believe”

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “Precious Lord, Thank my Hand”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “My Life is in You Lord”

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Roger Krueger

Communion Assistants—Tracy Geiermann, Sheila Koffler, Deb Sargent

Ushers—Melissa & Scot Long, Sarah & Graham Dahl

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, Janie Hague, George Harris, Ken Will, Laurie Stenehjem, Breezy Uffelman

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones: