

**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:

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2026 Church Council Members

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The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

March 29, 2026

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

“*Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts*”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

March 29, 2026

Passion/Palm Sunday

We Come Together

PRELUDE: Hosanna (Praise is Rising), Cornerstone

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

PROCESSION OF PALMS/SONG "Wave the Palms"

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.

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.

A hearty welcome goes out to **Mason Allan Lelm** who was baptized today from your family here at LCC. Parents are Neil and Chauntel Lelm. God's blessings to the Lelm family as they raise their son in the Lutheran faith.

CONNECTIONS April 7 2—4pm. Tracy Geiermann has arranged for a member from the Bismarck-Mandan Garden Club to come and speak to you about gardening this spring at 3 pm. The Bismarck-Mandan Garden club has a long history here in the area and do many interesting things throughout the year promoting the growing of plantings by way of flowers, vegetables, shrubs and trees and their added value to our lives. Come check this out.

Easter Egg Hunt after church today!

Have you found a little Jesus in your life today? He's hiding here waiting to be found.

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9a R. Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water	2 Stitching 9am	3 Connec- 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				

BAPTISM

BAPTISMAL SONG "You are Loved"

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the LORD submits to suffering

- ⁴ The Lord God has given me
a trained tongue,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens,
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
- ⁵ The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I did not turn backward
- ⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.
- ⁷ The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸ he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand in court together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
- ^{9a} It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 31:9-16

Into your hands, O *Lord*, I commend my spirit. (*Ps. 31:5*)

⁹ Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;
my eye wastes away from grief,
my soul and body also.

¹⁰ **For my life is spent with sorrow
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery,
and my bones waste away.**

¹¹ I am the scorn of all my adversaries,
a horror to my neighbors,
an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street flee from me.

¹² **I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel.**

¹³ For I hear the whispering of many—
terror all around!—
as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to take my life.

¹⁴ **But I trust in you, O Lord;
I say, “You are my God.”**

¹⁵ My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

¹⁶ **Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.**

All Women of LCC members and friends are invited to
THE WOMEN'S RETREAT scheduled for May 1 & 2, 2026 at Camp of the
Cross. Topic: **Peace with Nature Devotionals** Costs: full weekend of staying 1
night including 2 meals on Saturday will be \$85.00 or Saturday only cost \$40.00
(including meals). Questions? Please call Sally at 701.390.3049 or email sally-
grenz@hotmail.com to RSVP by April 20th. Send payment to LCC with Wom-
en's Retreat on the memo line.

HAPPY 94th BIRTHDAY, John Doerner! We love you! Enjoy your day.

Holy Week & Easter Week Schedule:

Maundy Thursday Worship Communion Service 7pm

Those signed up will receive their First Communion

Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7pm

Saturday Easter Virgil 7pm @ UCC

Easter Sunday Early Service 8 am

Easter Brunch 9am

Easter River Worship/Communion 10am

*He is not here;
he has
Risen!*

Luke 24:6

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

Palm Sunday Path

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.

"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 **April 14** (5pm)

Episode 8 - Beyond Mountains: April 12th (11:30) and **April 28** (5pm)

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

Humbled to the point of death on a cross

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL SONG: "Ancient Words"

GOSPEL : Matthew 26:14-27:66

The passion of the Lord

SONG OF THE DAY: “O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: “Day by Day”

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “Beautiful Things”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Art Wheeler

Communion Assistants—Mavis Pommerer, Doug Johnson, Melissa Long

Ushers—Suzanne & Joel Toso, Daniel McKinney, Marylee Gregware

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, Ken Will, Laurie Stenehjem, Breezy Uffelman

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones: