

**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

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Office 223-1001 / churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

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Peder Gulleson, **Sunday Worship Coordinator**

680.8787/theriver@midconetwork.com

Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

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2026 Church Council Members

Mike Geiermann, President, mgeiermann12@gmail.com 471.5122

Rod Sargent, Vice President, randdebsarge@beu.midco.net 880.8238

Kathryn Spilman, Secretary, healthandskinbykathryn@gmail.com 527.6867

Janice Martin, mrladyj2000@gmail.com 471.5600

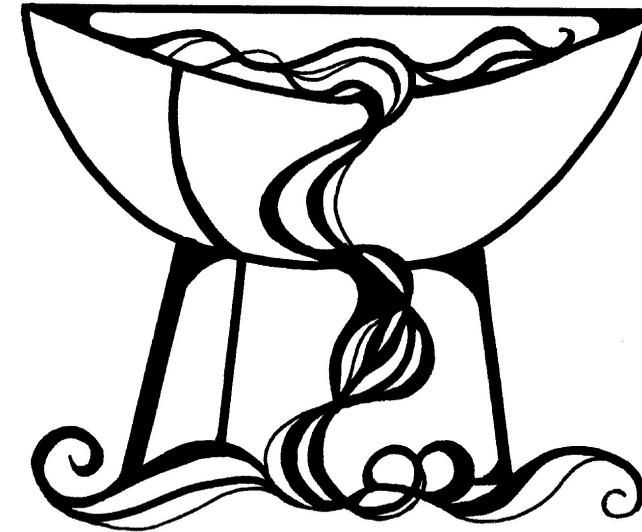
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The River

A Blended Worship Service



**Lutheran Church of the Cross
March 8, 2026**

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

“*Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts*”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

March 8, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "Living Water", "Jesus, Keep me Near the Cross" ELW 335

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "Come, Now is the Time to Worship"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

Water from the rock in the wilderness

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

Gospel PraiSing

Fiesta!

Nourish the Body Nourish the Soul

Mayas Mexican
Restaurant



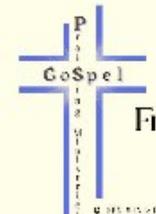
1601 W. Century Ave. Bismarck, ND
Lunch - order off menu
(at patron's expense)

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

March 2026

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

⁵ The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 95

Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (*Ps. 95:1*)

- ¹ O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- ² **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**
- ³ For the LORD is a great God
and a great King above all gods.
- ⁴ **In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.**
- ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
- ⁶ **O come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**
- ⁷ For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.
- O that today you would listen to his voice!
- ⁸ **Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,**
- ⁹ when your ancestors tested me
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.
- ¹⁰ **For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, “They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they do not regard my ways.”**

¹¹ Therefore in my anger I swore,
“They shall not enter my rest.”

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

Reconciled to God by Christ's death

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

GOSPEL SONG: “Good Soil”

GOSPEL John 4:5-42

Baptismal image: the woman at the well

⁵ [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”

¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?” ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who

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!

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!

"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: Time change for Sunday. Please note.

Episode 5 - Spirit: March 8th **(11:30)** and March 10th (5pm)

Episode 6 - Unlawful: March 22nd **(11:30)** and March 24th (5pm)

Episode 7 - Reckoning: April 12th **(11:30)** and April 14th (5pm)

Episode 8 - Beyond Mountains: April 26th **(11:30)** and April 28th (5pm)

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!

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: life story bible studies, all camp games, movie night, gaga, delicious meals, crafts, campfire worship, and more! Cost is \$55 April 17-19. Camp scholarships are available. Contact the office.

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 **Lenten C.A.R. Altar Focus 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.

Please note it was said in our March newsletter our first Easter Service was starting at 8:30. That is incorrect. The first service on Easter Sunday is at 8:00 am. See you there.

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.

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. Worship will follow our

¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done."⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word.⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" ELW 623

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: "Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land" ELW 333"

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" ELW 803

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: "Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer: ELW 618"

"THE RIVER" and "LIVING WATER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Cherie Krueger

Communion Assistants—Verlaine Jahner, Molly Traynor, John Kraft

Ushers—Suzanne & Joel Toso, Daniel McKinney

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 Stenehjelm, Breezy Uffelman

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones:

Pr. Tim Johnson