

Lutheran Church of the Cross
1004 E Highland Acres Rd.
Bismarck ND 58501

Phone: 223-1001

Website: www.churchofthecross.org

Office Hours: 8a-4p Monday—Thursday; 8 to noon Friday

Summer Hours: Mon– Fri. 8:00am–noon

Staff:

Lisa Ahlness, **Pastor**

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Janie Hague, **Director of Discipleship**

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Gerri Sarsten, **Accompanist**, Eve Kath, **Accompanist**

2021 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

December 12, 2021

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

"The River" Worship Service

December 12, 2021

3rd Sunday in Advent

WE COME TOGETHER

GATHERING MUSIC

Worship Team

You are invited to sing with the Worship Team as we gather for worship. All songs and worship liturgy will be projected on the screens for your use.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", "Prepare a Place", "Hark, the Glad Sound"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "Soon and Very Soon"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

RESPONSIVE READING: Isaiah 12:2-6

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "All Hail King Jesus"

Please Stand

GOSPEL READING: Luke 3:7-18

SERMON

Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Direct Your Dollars amount is up to \$142,000. ONLY \$8,000 to go!

Book Club picks: THE GIRL WITH THE LOUDING VOICE by Abi Dare Jan 12
SOOLEY by John Grisham Feb. 9th

The Book Club meets the second Wednesday at 1:30 at LCC. If you enjoy reading come and participate.

There is a **laundry basket** located out in the annex for our members to donate winter gear for those that go without. Collecting used or new hats, mittens, gloves, & scarves. Thank you for your contribution to our community! The basket will remain in the annex until warm weather arrives again. Kathryn Spilman takes the donated items and distributes them.

The devotional, **Christ in our Home**, for the first quarter of 2022 is here for you to take home.

The latest **directory** is out in the narthex. Take your copy.

Worship in December

Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24, we will have two worship opportunities: 5 pm Worship (prelude music begins at 4:45) and 10 pm Lessons and Carols service with candlelight and communion.

No worship services at LCC on Christmas Day.

Sunday, Dec. 26: "Pajamas Optional" Sunday! Come and enjoy Christmas carols and an impromptu "best Christmas pageant ever." You are welcome to come in your pjs if you like!

The annual **Men's Retreat** at Camp of the Cross is scheduled for the last weekend in January; January 28-30 or Friday night through Sunday morning. Register online at Camp of the Cross's website. [Retreats — CCM \(campofthecross.com\)](https://www.campofthecross.com)

Thank you, **Deanna Johnson** for the outdoor Christmas tree planter. It's appreciated!

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.

Stewardship Reflection for December 12th, 3rd Sunday of Advent, Luke 3:7-18. *And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?”* Pleasing God doesn’t come from singing certain hymns or attending a certain number of worship services but rather from being a blessing to others, serving neighbors, and those in need. John instructs the people to be generous with their possessions and share with those who have less. *Faith Simonieg-Associate to the Bishop for Stewardship*

December Altar Focus: Carrie’s Kids and Good Gifts. The trees are set up. The jean ornaments are on the tree for you to choose which size of jeans you wish to purchase. The same for the Good Gifts ornaments where your donations help support ELCA World Hunger. Thank you for your continued support with these two annual projects.

The **poinsettia order blanks** are in the back of the church and out in the narthex. Please fill out your order and place it in the offering plate or in the secretary’s plastic bin next to the office door.

Advent Dinners: We are starting something new this year. Confirmation students will be serving meals before each Wednesday Service in Advent. Stop in the fellowship hall between 5:15 and 6:00pm for some hot soup and support a good cause. A free will offering will be taken to help raise funds for camp scholarships, since this is a fundraiser. The Menu is: **Dec 15^h:** Beef Barley Soup with rolls **Dec 22nd:** Rustic Italian Tortellini soup with rolls.

Heat the Church A monthly calendar is available for contributors to pick a day (s) to help heat the church. December, January, February will be \$25 per day. March will be \$10 per day Choose the date(s) that have special meaning in the lives of your families. Donate in the memory of someone, or acknowledge a special event or purpose. Donations may be mailed or one may choose to use electronic giving. Thank you for continuing this tradition by way of taking care of LCC’s building.

Committee Reports for the Annual Meeting will be due Jan. 14, 2022.

SONG OF THE DAY: “Joy to the World”

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH “Let Us Pray for Peace”

OFFERING/OFFERTORY PRAYER *Please Stand*

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER “Lord’s Prayer” by Joel Gilbertson

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER *All are welcome*

COMMUNION SONG: “Annunciation & Magnificat” by Holden

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER *Please Stand*

BENEDICTION: “Final Blessing” by Holden

SENDING SONG: “Christ, Be Our Light”

DISMISSAL (The children are welcome to come and play instruments as we dismiss.)

POSTLUDE SONG: “Soon and Very Soon”

TODAY’S READING REFLECTION

Christ’s presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing.

The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing.

The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved.

Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Director of Discipleship—Deacon Janie Hague

Scripture Reader—Esther Anderson

Ushers— Lee Jensen & Kathryn Spilman

Altar Guild—Jean Kraft, Donna Belisle, Cheryl Neu, Cherie Krueger

Faith & Care Coordinators—Myrtice & John Behan, Kim & Mike Humann

River Worship Team—

Sound Board Technicians—Terry Grenz, Lavern Hanson

Projection Team— Jace Kunze, Mark Kunze, Jeff Thomas, Art Wheeler,

Streaming Team— Mike Collins, Tom Harris, Mark Kunze, Karen Will

River Singers— Deb Carpenter, Sally Grenz, Paul Gurholt, Kari Harris,

Doug Johnson, Robin Johnson, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, John Sailer,

Amanda Sagsveen, Tom Wade, Barb Wilson

Percussionist— Kari Harris

Accompanists—Eve Kath, Robin Johnson, Gerri Sarsten

Prayers, Births, Deaths, Concerns

Please contact Connie in the church office if you have a prayer request, or if you will be entering the hospital and would like a pastoral visit.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

(We encourage you to take this list home and pray for these people.)

For those struggling with health issues:

Maxine Hill, Reece Fischer, Tracy Martinson, Ann Hillesland, Roger Bakke, Erwin and Linda Marson, Quinton and Arlene Wolff, Bonnie Spies, Lori Dvorak, Al Samuelson, JoRae Sarsten; Bernice Walton, Dale Heaton, Jean Schafer, Gary and LaVonne Hultin, John Behan, Bob Roesler, Cheryl Moore, Josey Hanson, Virginia Smith, LeRoy Tiffany, Cordella Thompson, Janis Sloka, Kerry Carpenter, Christie Zainhofsky, Kris Wood, Brandon Heaton, Diane Stotz, Earl and Marlene Larson, Betty Fetzer, Todd Wood, Parker Sagsveen, Joyce Wahl, Lisa Robinson, Carolyn Wegerle, Nancy Dockter, Donna Belisle, Pat Schmidt, Jim Mattheis

For those dealing with the death of a loved one—the families and friends of:

Dora Strand, Mary Weinberg

Military Deployment: MN 851 VEC deployed to Kuwait, ND 957th Engineer Co. deployed to southern border.

WEEKLY CALENDAR of December 12

Today, December 12:

Christmas Practice 9:00am

The River 10:00am

Coffee Hour 11:00am

Living Water practice 5pm

Monday, December 13:

Needlework Group 9:30am

Church Council

Tuesday, December 14:

Staff meeting 10:00am

Wednesday, December 15:

Advent Supper 5:15pm

Living Water Service 6:15pm

Christmas Practice/Confirmation

7pm

River Practice 7pm

Thursday, December 16:

Quilting 1pm

AA Meeting 7:30pm

Friday, December 17:

Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, December 18:

Sunday, December 19:

Christmas Practice 9:00am

The River 10:00am/ Program

Coffee Hour 11:00am

Living Water practice 5pm

Christmas Eve Worship Service 5 pm & 10 pm

Men's Retreat Jan. 29-30 at COC