

Lutheran Church of the Cross  
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Website: [www.churchofthecross.org](http://www.churchofthecross.org)

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

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# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

December 19, 2021

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**December 19, 2021**  
**Children’s Christmas Program—“The Savior’s Birth”**

*WE COME TOGETHER*

**PRELUDE 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 Holy Night” (Organ Piano Duet),  
“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”,  
“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**SONG OF BAPTISM:** *“We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus”*

**SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** *“You Are Loved”*

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:** *“Let Us Pray for Peace”*

**OFFERING**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Performed by Libby Martin on violin*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Direct Your Dollars** amount is up to \$145,000. ONLY \$5,000 to go! Amazing!

**Thank you** Sheila Seuss Hocker for the beautiful Christmas bulletin board you created for this Christmas season.

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)

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.

**Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for “U.S. tornadoes” will be used entirely (100%) to assist those affected by tornadoes until the response is complete.** Together, we can support those who are on the long road to recovery. Please give today. <https://community.elca.org/USTornadoRelief>

**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.

## **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 19<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Luke 1:39-45** *In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. Mary brought God to Elizabeth in her heart and in her womb. We bring God to everyone we meet, and everyone we meet brings God to us. SacredSpace.com) Is there anyone that needs you to bring God today? Faith Simonieg-Associate to the Bishop for Stewardship*

Being **baptized** today is Claire, Lena, and Isabelle Burkhartsmeier. Parents are Meredith and Shaun Burkhartsmeier. We welcome you into God’s family here at LCC.

**December Altar Focus:** Carrie’s Kids and Good Gifts. You will find 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 jeans will be accepted through December. They may come unwrapped or in Christmas bags with the jean tag on the outside. Some will be delivered before Christmas and some afterwards.

**Advent Dinners: Dec 22nd:** Rustic Italian Tortellini soup with rolls. Confirmation students will be serving the meal between 5:15 and 6:00pm. Come 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.

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

**Thank you** to all who participated in this year’s Christmas program and to those who brought in Christmas cookies/desserts for the reception and the servers.

Since we are not doing a **Blue Christmas** service we want to commend to you a service either at Good Shepherd on Tuesday, December 21 at 5:30 or at Faith Lutheran Church, their Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service Wednesday, December 22 7pm.

## *WE SHARE THE MEAL*

### **PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD’S PRAYER** (spoken)

### **INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER**

*All are welcome*

**COMMUNION SONG:** “Annunciation & Magnificat” by Holden

### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER** *Please Stand*

## *WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST*

### **“A SAVIOR’S BIRTH”**

*Children’s Christmas Program*

*The songs will be projected on the screen throughout the program  
Please sing along!*

*“O Come All Ye Faithful”  
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”  
“O Holy Night”  
“Away in a Manger”  
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”  
“We Three Kings”  
“Joy to the World”*

### **DISMISSAL**

### **PIANO POSTLUDE**

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

## "THE RIVER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Director of Discipleship**—Deacon Janie Hague

**Scripture Reader**—

**Ushers**— Mike & Tracy Geiermann

**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, Christie Zainhofsky, Kris Wood, Brandon Heaton, Diane Stotz, Earl and Marlene Larson, Betty Fetzer, Todd Wood, Joyce Wahl, Lisa Robinson, Carolyn Wegerle, Nancy Dockter, Donna Belisle, Pat Schmidt, Jim Mattheis, Barb Thomas

#### **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 19

**Today, December 19:**

**Christmas Practice 9:00am**  
**The River/Program 10:00am**  
**Coffee Hour/Reception 11:00am**  
**Living Water practice 5pm**

**Monday, December 20:**

**Needlework Group 9:30am**

**Tuesday, December 21:**

**Staff meeting 10:00am**

**Wednesday, December 22:**

**Advent Supper 5:15pm**  
**Living Water Service 6:15pm**  
**No Church/Confirmation 7pm**  
**River Practice 7pm**

**Thursday, December 23:**

**AA Meeting 7:30pm**

**Friday, December 24:**

**Office Closed**  
**Christmas Eve Worship 5pm**  
**Candlelight Service 10pm**

**Saturday, December 25:**

**Christmas Day**

**Sunday, December 26:**

**The River 10:00am**  
**Coffee Hour 11:00am**

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Men's Retreat Jan. 29-30 at COC**

**Annual Meeting scheduled for Jan. 30 immediately after the service. Potluck follows the meeting.**