

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

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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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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 26, 2021

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

“The River” Worship Service

December 26, 2021

1st Sunday of Christmas

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.

“The First Noel”, “Go Tell it on the Mountain”, “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

WE CELEBRATE JESUS’ BIRTH

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *“All Hail King Jesus”*

GOSPEL READING: **Luke 2:1-20**

READING

CHRISTMAS CAROL: *“Annunciation and Magnificat” by Holden*

Direct Your Dollars amount is up to \$148,000. ONLY \$2,000 to go! Amazing!

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.

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.

You may take your poinsettia home after today’s service. Thank you for helping to make the sanctuary beautiful.

Carmel Rolls will be served January 9th after church. (Come hungry that day.) The event is a fundraiser for camp scholarships and mission trips. The suggested donation is \$3/roll.

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.

Quilting will resume January 13th at 1 pm.

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 26th, 1st Sunday of Christmas *Luke 2:41-52 and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.”* Losing a child is a parent’s worst nightmare. Like Mary, we too wonder why painful events happen in our lives. But Jesus goes home with Mary and Joseph, just like he goes with us. Lord, help us to trust you in the darkest of times even when we don’t understand. *Faith Simonieg-Associate to the Bishop for Stewardship*

Being **baptized** today is Banks Mickey Dewald Parents are Sara and Mike Dewald.. 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.

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

Heat the Church Thank you for continuing this tradition by way of taking care of LCC’s building.

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>

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/Retreats)

READING

CHRISTMAS CAROL: *“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”*

READING

CHRISTMAS CAROL: *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

READING

CHRISTMAS CAROL: *“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”*

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

OFFERING/OFFERTORY PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER *(spoken)*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER *All Are Welcome*

COMMUNION SONG: *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

BENEDICTION: *“Final Blessing” by Holden*

SENDING SONG: *“Joy to the World”*

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE: *“Go Tell it on the Mountain”*

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Director of Discipleship—Deacon Janie Hague

Scripture Reader—

Ushers— John & Jean Kraft

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 26

Today, December 26:

No Church School 9:00am

The River 10:00am

Coffee Hour 11:00am

Monday, December 27:

Needlework Group 9:30am

Tuesday, December 28:

Staff meeting 10:00am

Wednesday, December 29:

No church activities

Thursday, December 30:

AA Meeting 7:30pm

Friday, December 31:

No Wired Word/New Years Eve

Saturday, January 1:

New Years Day, Happy New Year!

Sunday, January 2:

The River 10:00am

Coffee Hour 11:00am

Future Events

Carmel Rolls January 9th

Gather Bible Study January 11

Book Club January 12

Quilting resume January 13

Annual Reports due January 14

Youth Group 4-6 pm January 16

Board Game Night January 23

Knitting January 24

Wednesday Morning Bible Study January 26

Whole Family Worship January 26 & January 30

Men's Retreat Jan. 29-30 at COC

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