

Lutheran Church of the Cross  
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Bismarck ND 58501

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Website: [www.churchofthecross.org](http://www.churchofthecross.org)

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

Summer Hours: Mon– Fri. 8:00am–noon

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

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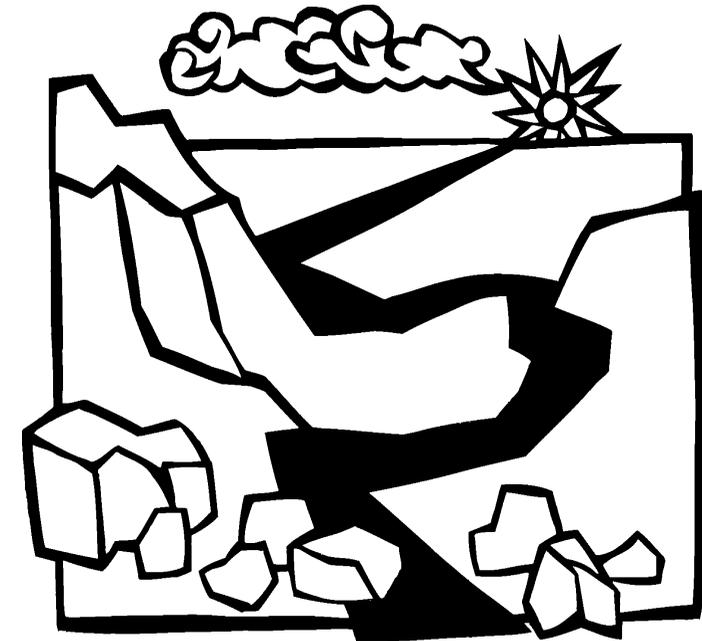
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# The River

A Blended Worship Service



"Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts"

December 5, 2021  
10:00am

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

## “The River” Worship Service

December 5, 2021  
2nd 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.*

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”, “Make Room”, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

### WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

### GREETINGS OF PEACE

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

### OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

**GATHERING SONG:** “Christ, Be Our Light”

### CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

*WE HEAR GOD’S WORD*

**FIRST READING:** Malachi 3:1-4

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Luke 1:68-79

**SECOND READING:** Philippians 1:3-11

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** “All Hail King Jesus” *Please Stand*

**GOSPEL READING:** Luke 3:1-6

### SERMON

Deacon Janie Hague

**Direct Your Dollars** amount is up to \$141,000. ONLY \$9,000 to go!

**Book Club** picks: ORDINARY GRACE by William Kent Krueger Dec 8th  
THE GIRL WITH THE LOUDING VOICE by Abi Dare Jan  
SOOLEY by John Grisham Feb.

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

**Missouri Slope Volunteer Opportunities.** Missouri Slope is opening a new skilled nursing facility. We are looking for volunteers to help during this transition the upcoming few months. Are you able to help pack up and unpack belongings, greet residents upon arrival to new facility on north Washington, escort to rooms and provide tours; or do you like food and are willing to help serve meals during the day; or do you have a passion for cleaning, organizing, or assembling and want to put your skills to use; and most importantly, do you have some free time? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then we would love your service. Volunteers are required to be COVID and Flu vaccinated. For more information, please contact Cathy at 701-221-9349.

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

Our Advent Wednesdays kick off this week. We will enjoy dinner together from 5:15 – 6 pm, with worship to follow at 6:15 pm. Worship will feature the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer service, with no sermon, but a brief meditation. You won’t want to miss it.

**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.**

## **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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Luke 3:1-6**  
*He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah. We each have areas of “wilderness” in our lives, a place where we are tested. It is in this place of wilderness that God comes to us. Can we be open to wandering into this Holy Space? 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 8<sup>th</sup>:** Chicken Wild Rice soup with sweet rolls **Dec 15<sup>th</sup>:** Beef Barley Soup with rolls **Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>:** 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. November and March will be \$10 per day, and December, January, February will be \$25 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 in advance for continuing this tradition by way of taking care of your church building.

**Committee Reports** for the Annual Meeting will be due Jan. 5, 2022.

**SONG OF THE DAY:** “Prepare the Royal Highway”

**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** (Spoken)

**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:** “Hark! The Glad Sound”

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

**POSTLUDE SONG:** “Make Room”

**TODAY’S READING REFLECTION**

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer’s voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi’s prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the “salvation of God.”

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

## “THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Director of Discipleship**—Deacon Janie Hague

**Scripture Reader**—Roger Krueger

**Ushers**— Roger & Esther Anderson

**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

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

Dora Strand, Mary Weinberg, Paul Fiske, Marlin Johnson, Lois Dolan

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

## WEEKLY CALENDAR of December 5

**Today, December 5:**

**Christmas Practice 9:00am**

**The River 10:00am**

**Coffee Hour 11:00am**

**Living Water practice 5pm**

**Monday, December 6:**

**Needlework Group 9:30am**

**Tuesday, December 7:**

**Staff meeting 10:00am**

**Wednesday, December 8:**

**Book Club 1:30pm**

**Advent Supper 5:15pm**

**Living Water Service 6:15pm**

**Christmas Practice/Confirmation**

**7pm**

**River Practice 7pm**

**Thursday, December 9:**

**Quilting 1pm**

**Church Council 6:30pm**

**AA Meeting 7:30pm**

**Friday, December 10:**

**Wired Word 1:30pm**

**Saturday, December 11:**

**Sunday, December 12:**

**Christmas Practice 9:00am**

**The River 10:00am**

**Coffee Hour 11:00am**

**Living Water practice 5pm**

**Christmas Program Dec. 19th during worship**

**Christmas Eve Worship Service 5 pm & 10 pm**