

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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Deacon Janie Hague, **Director of Discipleship**

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Beth Greff, **Worship Coordinator**

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Gerri Sarsten, Eve Kath, Joel and Jan Gilbertson, **Accompanists**

2022 Church Council Members

Cherie Krueger, President cheriekrueger@gmail.com 226.7514

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The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

December 11, 2022

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
December 11, 2022

WE COME TOGETHER

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.

PRELUDE MUSIC

“O, Come O, Come, Emmanuel” “Bethlehem Wind”, “Christmas Amazing Grace”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”
Lighting of the Advent Candle

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 146:5-10

SECOND READING James 5:7-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *“Glory to God”* *Please Stand*

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:2-11

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Advent Dinners before worship on Wednesday evenings, 5:15-6:00 PM. The dinner proceeds are designated to help provide scholarships to our confirmation students to go to Bible camp in the summer. The menu is: Dec. 14: Beef Barley Soup with rolls, and Dec 21: Knoephla Soup with rolls.

River Rhapsody (Sweet Adelines) invites you to their Christmas concert **“Hallelujah, Christ is Born”** on Dec 18th at 2pm at House of Prayer.

Men’s Bible Study: Saturdays at 10am at LCC. The dates for December are the 3rd, 10th, and 17th. Each week join in discussion around the Gospel text for that week. Come for coffee but stay for great discussion and fellowship.

Camp of the Cross is sponsoring a **Men’s Retreat Jan. 27-29**. Check it out on their website; campofthecross.com.

You are invited to a birthday brunch for **Sharon Narum** Wed. Dec. 28 10—noon RSVP 701.640.5500. Sharon is turning 80!

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

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Youth Ski trip to Bridger Bowl: Youth Grades 6-12 are invited to join Deacon Janie and Faith Lutheran Church for a weekend of fun hitting the slopes February 18th -21st. Cost will be around \$300 depending on if you need rentals or not. There will be a fundraising opportunity to help offset the cost. Please talk to Janie if you are interested in going on the trip. Deadline to register is January 1st.

Thanks to all who donated bears for children affected by trauma! Look at all the love!



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.
January: The Sunflower Sisters by Martha Hall Kelly

Heat the Church The calendars are out on the round table in the narthex. Thank you for being willing to donate extra funds to the church during our cold winters months. November \$10/day, December—February \$25/day, March \$10/day.

Altar Focus: Good Gifts and Carrie’s Kids. Check out the two trees in the narthex to support both worthy causes; one locally and one overseas.

Join our church school students on December 18th for our **Christmas program.** The program will be held at 10am during the worship service. We hope you can join us for a wonderful program!

Look for the order sheets for **poinsettia plants** sponsored by the Altar Guild at the back of the church or in the narthex. Thank you for donating a plant to help make the church beautiful on Christmas. Deadline December 20th.

Missouri Slope LCC is looking for people who wish to honor their loved one with a custom-made ornament on their new Christmas tree in their new Chapel for Christmas this year. Details are on the posters placed throughout the church building. Order blanks are in the church secretary’s plastic bin just outside her office.

The **Committee Reports for the Annual Meeting** are due by December 23rd. Many reports have already been turned in. That’s greatly appreciated!

The **Faith and Care Groups** are being reorganized. The new coordinators are Cheryl Neu and Patty Hanson. A meeting is scheduled for December 17 at 10am to distribute the booklets and to receive group information. If you cannot attend please let either Cheryl or Patty know.

Organ Recital with Norman Paskowsky Trinity Lutheran Dec. 11th 3pm

SONG OF THE DAY: *“Joy to the World”*

APOSTLE’S CREED

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: *“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”*

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: *“All is Well”*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Please Stand

BENEDICTION Spoken

SENDING SONG: *“Christ Be Our Light”*

DISMISSAL: *“Joy to the World”*

(All children are welcome to come to the front and play instruments during the Worship Team’s Postlude song)

INTRODUCTION

A note of joyful expectation marks today’s worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God’s reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ’s advent among us.

“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Director of Discipleship—Deacon Janie Hague

Scripture Reader—Roger Krueger

Ushers— Lee Jensen & Alex Spilman, Roger & Esther Anderson

Communion Assistants—Roger Krueger & Myrtice Behan

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

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

River Worship Team—

Sound Board Technicians—Terry Grenz, Lavern Hanson

Projection Team— Caden, Kunze, Jace Kunze, Art Wheeler

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

River Singers— Deb Carpenter, Kerry Carpenter, Sally Grenz, Paul

Gurholt, Doug Johnson, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Amanda Sagsveen,

Gerri Sarsten, John Saylor, Claudia Thompson, Tom Wade,

Barb Wilson

Guitarists—Tom Wade, Marin Traynor

Percussionist— Kari Harris

Accompanists—Jan & Joel Gilbertson, Eve Kath, 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 and other concerns:

Maxine Hill, Reece Fischer, Tracy Martinson, Ann Hillesland, Erwin and Linda Marson, Quinton and Arlene Wolff, JoRae Sarsten; Bernice Walton, Gary and LaVonne Hultin, John Behan, Bob Roesler, Josey Hanson, Diane Stotz, Earl Larson, Lisa Robinson, Carolyn Wegerle, Jean Kraft, Nicole Eckroth, Mary Schuler, Gladys Bain, Nancy Dockter, Kerry Carpenter, Todd Wood, Lori Marx, Don Bigwood, Pastor Jerry Erickson, Barb Thomas, Hattie Martinson, Ed Decker, Ruth Jensen, Donna Belisle, Sheila Koffler, Brady Staloch, Bishop Craig Schweitzer, Virginia Smith

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones— Marjorie Iseler, Kathy Beaudoin, Calvin Johnson, Becky Sommers, Mary Sherer

WEEKLY CALENDAR of December 11, 2022

Today, December 11:

Church School 9:15am
Worship Service 10:00am
Coffee Hour 11:00am
Financial Peace 6:30pm

Monday, December 12:

Needlework Group 9am

Tuesday, December 13:

Staff Meeting 10:00am

Wednesday, December 14:

Book Club 1:30pm
Advent Dinner 5:15pm
Worship 6:15pm
Church School/Confirmation 7pm

Thursday, December 15:

AA Meeting 7:30pm

Friday, December 16:

Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, December 17:

Faith and Care Meeting 10am
Men's Bible Study 10:00am
Christmas Program Practice 1pm

Sunday, December 18:

Church School 9:15am
Worship Service 10:00am
Christmas Program
Coffee Hour 11:00am

Up Coming Events

December 24th 4:30 Music Prelude 5pm Festive Service
10:00pm Candlelight Service

December 25th 10am A Christmas Story in pajamas!

December 28th 10—noon Birthday Brunch Sharon Narum

Jan. 22 Annual Meeting and Potluck

Jan. 27-29 Men's Retreat Camp of the Cross