

Lutheran Church of the Cross  
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Bismarck ND 58501

Phone: 223-1001

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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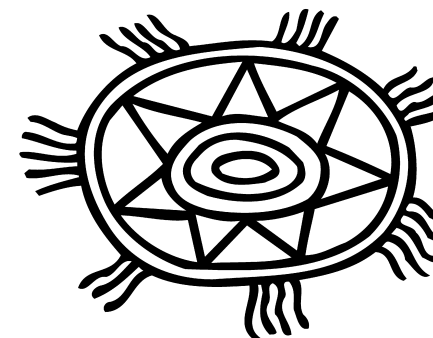
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# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

December 25, 2022

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**December 25, 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**

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

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*“Angels We Have Heard on High”*  
Lighting of the Advent Candles

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** *“Angels From the Realms of Glory”*

*WE HEAR GOD’S WORD*

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 62:6-12

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Psalm 97

**SECOND READING:** Titus 3:4-7

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *“All Hail King Jesus”*

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 2:1-12

**SERMON** Story: The Giftgiver

The **Time and Talent Sheets** are available to fill out. You’ll find them in the narthex. What talents do you have that you are willing to share with the church. Please leave the completed form in the secretary’s plastic bin next to her door.

The **printed directory** is out. Look for it on the same table in the narthex.

**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.

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



## 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.

Are you still planning on writing a committee report for the Annual Report. Get them in now please!

Thank you to **Baron Blanchard** for the constant snow shoveling during this extraordinary snowstorm/blizzard. Baron, all around the building. we appreciate your efforts during this time and every time that you have shoveled keeping us safe on the sidewalks. Many thanks also to **John Kraft** who viewed the world from a different perspective while up on the roof shoveling snow this frigid week. **Mike Humann** helped John Kraft too braving the cold, cold temps.

Due to the blizzard the **Faith and Care meeting** that was scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 17 has been postponed until after the first of the year. The booklets will be sent out to the first group sometime in the next two weeks.

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

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

**SONG OF THE DAY** “We Three Kings”

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

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

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY:** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” v 1,4  
“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

**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:** “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”  
“What Child Is This”  
“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Please Stand*

**BENEDICTION** Spoken

**SENDING SONG:** “Joy to the World”

**DISMISSAL:** “The Bells of Christmas”

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

**“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS**

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness  
**Director of Discipleship**—Deacon Janie Hague  
**Scripture Reader**—Barb Norby  
**Ushers**— Roger & Esther Anderson  
**Communion Assistants**—Mavis Pommerer & Cherie Krueger  
**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, Curt Hauff, Carter Weigel

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

**WEEKLY CALENDAR of December 25, 2022**

<b>Today, December 25:</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b> <b>NO Church School 9:15am</b> <b>Worship Service 10:00am</b> <b>Breakfast Hour 11:00am</b>
<b>Monday, December 26:</b>	<b>Office closed</b>
<b>Tuesday, December 27:</b>	<b>Staff Meeting 10:00am</b>
<b>Wednesday, December 28:</b>	<b>Birthday Brunch</b> <b>No evening church activities</b>
<b>Thursday, December 29:</b>	<b>AA Meeting 7:30pm</b>
<b>Friday, December 30:</b>	
<b>Saturday, December 31:</b>	
<b>Sunday, January 1:</b>	<b>New Years Day</b> <b>NO Church School 9:15am</b> <b>Worship Service 10:00am</b> <b>Coffee Hour 11:00am</b>

**Up Coming Events**

**December 28th 10—noon Birthday Brunch Sharon Narum**  
**January 2 Office Closed**  
**Jan. 22 Annual Meeting and Potluck**  
**Jan. 27-29 Men’s Retreat Camp of the Cross**