

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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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 4, 2022

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
December 4, 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

“Hope for Everyone”, “When Hope Came Down”, “O, Come O, Come, Emmanuel”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” v.2
Lighting of the Advent Candle

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”*

PRESENTATION of THIRD GRADE BIBLES

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 72:1-7,18-19

SECOND READING Romans 15:4-13

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

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:1-12

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

The **Advent season** is here. Plans are underway to provide Advent dinners before worship on Wednesday evenings, 5:15-6:00 PM. Advent dinner proceeds are designated to help provide scholarships to our confirmation students to go to Bible camp in the summer. The of the menu is: Dec. 7: Chicken Noodle Soup with sweet rolls, Dec. 14: Beef Barley Soup with rolls, Dec 21: Knoephla Soup with rolls.

Men’s Bible Study: LCC is starting a men's bible study group that will meet on Saturdays at 10am at LCC. The dates for December are the 3rd, 10th, and 17th. We will take the last two Saturdays in December off to account for the holidays. 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.

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.

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.

THANK YOU: to all who donated juice, grapes and butter for the Opportunity Sunday Pancake Breakfast (Camp of the Cross Fund Raiser). (Cheryl N., Karen W., Janet D., Cherie K., Mavis P., Melissa L., Kunze's., Kelly O., Janice M., Andersons., Kathryn S., Kay K.). And a huge thank you for all the workers that helped set up on Saturday, (Karen, Cherie, Mike, Cheryl and Steve N., LaVern, Deb, and Mavis) Tremendous thank yous to the cooks, servers, and clean up crew on Sunday; (Paul G., Mike H., Kim H., Karen W., Mavis P., Sheila S., Frankie S., Janet B., John and Janet D.) Thanks to Barb Norby for applying for the Thrivent funds and Deacon Janie for driving to Wishek for the sausage! We served 107 plates of pancakes, sausage, and grapes plus 1 carry out!

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.
December: The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner
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.

Although LCC isn’t having a **Annual Cookie Walk** Faith Lutheran Church is Saturday, Dec.10 from 9—2pm. Get your Christmas baking done that morning.

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. Three reports have already been turned in. That’s greatly appreciated!

Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center is having a hiring event December 6th 12-6pm.

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

APOSTLE’S CREED

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: *“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”*

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: *“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER *Please Stand*

BENEDICTION Spoken

SENDING SONG: *“Hark” A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”*

DISMISSAL: *“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”*

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

INTRODUCTION

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord’s table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Director of Discipleship—Deacon Janie Hague

Scripture Reader—Suzanne Toso

Ushers— John & Janet Doerner, Mike & Tracy Geiermann

Communion Assistants—Donna Belisle & Sheila Koffler

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, Virginia Smith, 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

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR of December 4, 2022

Today, December 4:

Church School 9:15am
Worship Service 10:00am
Coffee Hour 11:00am
Middle & High School Battle of the Pizzas 2pm
Financial Peace 6:30pm

Monday, December 5:

Needlework Group 9am

Tuesday, December 6:

Staff Meeting 10:00am

Wednesday, December 7:

Advent Dinner 5:15pm
Worship 6:15pm
Church School/Confirmation 7pm

Thursday, December 8:

Church Council 6:30pm
AA Meeting 7:30pm

Friday, December 9:

Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, December 10:

Men's Bible Study 10:00am

Sunday, December 11:

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

Up Coming Events

December 17 Christmas Program Practice 1pm

December 18 Christmas Program

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

December 25th Christmas Stories in pajamas!