

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

Phone: 223-1001

Website: www.churchofthecross.org

Winter Hours. Mon.– Thursday 8–4pm Fri 8 to noon

Summer Office Hours: Mon.- Fri. 8:00 am—noon

Staff:

Lisa Ahlness, **Pastor**

Cell: 220.9011 / lisaahlness@hotmail.com

Connie Werner, **Secretary** cell 400.5852

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Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

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Gerri Sarsten, Joel and Jan Gilbertson, Beth Greff **Accompanists**

2023 Church Council Members

Mike Humann, President mknhumann@bis.midco.net 527.3376

Janice Martin, Vice President mshadyj2000@gmail.com 471.5600

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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
October 8, 2023

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
October 8, 2023

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

“Cornerstone”, “Living Hope”, “Heart of Worship”

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”

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

¹Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
²He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

Your **Endowment Fund Committee** will be hosting a brunch, in the fellowship hall, following the service on Nov. 5th. There is no cost to attend and Committee Members will be available to answer questions regarding LCC’s Endowment Fund. Please join us as we say thank you to all who support LCC.

A contribution to the Endowment Fund is an amazing gift that is never used up. Your gift is added to the balance of the Fund, and the Fund grows. As the Fund grows, the annual distribution increases, enabling the ministries of Lutheran Church of the Cross to increase. And far into the future, when we can’t know what the appropriate ministries will be, the future church leaders will make decisions based on current needs, and your gift will be part of that future ministry. After other gifts have been expended, the Endowment Fund continues to provide a reminder of the faith and witness of its donors.

Ken Will, Chairperson
Art Wheeler, Financial Secretary
Rita Staloch, Recording Secretary
Kerry Carpenter
Cherie Krueger
Lisa Ahlness
Alex Spilman

Christian Adoption Services (CAS) is hosting its first Family Fun Day Event in Lincoln. we hope this event will bring awareness to our organization and the important role it serves in the state. Our non-profit agency was started in 1985 and has serves North Dakota and Minnesota birth parents and adoptive families with a mission of “Displaying God’s love to children, birth parents, and families by providing Christ-centered adoption services that have an eternal impact by growing forever families.”

Christian Adoption Services
Family Fun Day
Saturday, October 14, 2023
10 am – 4 pm

Millennium Park, Lincoln ND

6 Large Inflatables/Bounce Houses, Games, Free Food, Silent Auction, Bike Giveaways and More!
\$10 Ages 2 and Up or \$40 Family Pack

As a full-service adoption agency we also work with potential adoptive parents looking to start or complete their family through adoption. As a twice-adoptive parent myself, I can attest to the kind and loving care Christian Adoption Services provides to its birth parents and adoptive families. More information can be found on our website at www.christianadoptionsservices.org

SAVE THE DATES for Theology On Tap- the third Thursday of the month
October 19th 7pm @ Lucky 13 Pub (on the patio-fingers crossed)
November 16th 7pm @ Stonehome
December no meeting

The **church directory** is out on the table in the narthex for your review. Have you removed your landline? Changed or added an email address? Moved? Had a child? If so, please add these things to your family's section. If nothing has changed just write OK, or your initials to your section and the secretary will know to keep the information as is. **Please note:** we are doing a pictorial directory!!! We are not using an outside source but will rely on the congregation to provide their own photos if able to do so. The church office would like individuals and families to submit a photo of yourself or family to the church secretary so that LCC can produce a pictorial directory online (not on LCC's website) through a secure web portal and also on paper. Please submit the jpeg photo electronically to: churchsecretary@midconetwork.com. Photos can be taken on your phone or camera. They do not need to be professionally done. Take a selfie! Ask your neighbor! Let's get this project started and completed by Thanksgiving!

October Altar Focus Closet 701; connected with Heavens Helper Soup Café but located on Main Ave Needed now for the upcoming fall and winter season is outwear for men, women and children. Jeans for men are always in need. (See bulletin board.)

LYO Gathering 2023 at the Baymont Hotel in Mandan

High School: October 19-20

Middle School: October 20-21

Featuring Agape and Joe Davis. AGAPE and Joe bring an incredible energy to any event they're a part of! They know how to connect with youth and get them jumping out of their seat, celebrating the Lutheran faith together! This is an event not to miss. **Registration Info for 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering** Info & Workbook: <https://www.elca.church/gathering/attend/congregations> gLearn. If you have questions about the ELCA Youth Gathering please contact our Gathering Synod Champion for Western ND – Gracia Johnson at gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com or 701-471-4434.



³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 80:7-15

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

⁸**You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.**

⁹You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.

¹⁰**The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches;**

¹¹it sent out its branches to the sea,
and its shoots to the River.

¹²**Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?**

¹³The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that move in the field feed on it.

¹⁴**Turn again, O God of hosts;
look down from heaven, and see;
have regard for this vine,**

¹⁵the stock that your right hand planted.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

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.

The sound booth has a **listening assisted device** available for anyone to use. Please ask LaVern in the sound booth for the device and headset.

Book Club Choices: Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 1:30pm in the Library.
October: West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge
November: Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Gamus
Consider coming to the Book Club. We have interesting and lively discussions of each book. A variety of subjects are read but usually works of fiction.

Being **baptized** today is Harvey Rand Kath; son of Jamison and Eve Kath. Ada is the big sister to Harvey. Blessings to you as you raise your son to walk in God's light.

Coffee servers and dishwashers are needed. Sign up please.

The sign up list for **Trunk or Treat** is in the narthex. As a grown up do you still have that child in you? Do you remember dressing up and enjoying being Fred Flintstone or the one eyed pirate? Come venture out and deck out your trunk in whatever theme you wish. Candy donations are welcome also.

The **trees** have been trimmed thanks to Paul Gurholt for the donation of the use of the scissors lift and for John Kraft who braved the lift way up high to trim up the trees on the church property.

For you coffee lovers, “**Love Buzz**”, “**Mind, Body & Soul**”, “**Columbian**” and a decaffeinated coffee has been restocked from Equal Exchange. Money goes to the Youth Group.

Church Council has been moved to Tuesday, October 17 @ 6:30pm.

WEEKLY CALENDAR of October 8, 2023

Today, October 8:	Worship Service Coffee Hour 11:00am
Monday, October 9:	Stitching Group 9am Sweet Adelines practice 6-9:30pm
Tuesday, October 10:	
Wednesday, October 11:	Book Club 1:30pm Supper 5:15pm Worship Service 6:00pm Confirmation/Church School 7pm River practice 7pm
Thursday, October 12:	Quilting 1pm AA Meeting 7:30pm
Friday, October 13:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, October 14:	Men's Bible Study 10:00am River practice 4pm
Sunday, October 15:	River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am
Upcoming Events	
October 17	Church Council 6:30pm
October 19	Theology on Tap
October 29	Confirmation Trunk or Treat 2-3pm

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Thy Word"

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

[Jesus said to the people:] ³³"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes'?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: "Abide With Me" ELW #629

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: "I Love You Lord"

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: "Give Thanks"

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER: Singing

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: "Mighty to Save"

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION: "The Lord Be With You"

SENDING SONG: "Jesus Love Me" ELW #595

DISMISSAL: "Cornerstone"

"THE RIVER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Amanda Sagsveen

Greeters—Mike & Tracy Geiermann

Ushers—Steve & Cheryl Neu, Joel & Suzanne Toso

Communion Assistants—Roger Krueger, Melissa Long, Kay Koch

Faith & Care—Janet & Troy Bassingthwaite, Nikki & Ryan Taylor, Sarah & Brian Dahl

River Worship Team—

Sound Board Technicians—LaVern Hanson, Larry Wolf

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

Streaming Team—Mark Kunze, Karen Will

River Singers—Deb Carpenter, Kerry Carpenter, Marlene Grabow, Sally Grenz, Paul Gurholt, Doug Johnson, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Amanda Sagsveen, Gerri Sarsten, John Sayler, Claudia Thompson, Tom Wade, Barb Wilson, Tracy Wolf

Guitarists—Tom Wade,

Percussionist—Kari Harris

Violinist—Fynn Sagsveen

Flutist—Beth Greff

Accompanists—Jan & Joel Gilbertson, Gerri Sarsten, Beth Greff

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:

Reece Fischer, Tracy Martinson, Ann Hillesland, Erwin and Linda Marson, Arlene Wolff, Bob Roesler, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Lori Marx, Hattie Martinson, Carter Weigel, Kerry Carpenter, Mary Ternes, Vicky Moser, Jeff Thomas, Chelsea Sorenson, Jean King, baby Faya Luna Toso, Jim Miller, Heidi Renner, Peg Ahlness, Jacob Walby, Kristy Forrest

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—

Kathy Van Middlesworth,