

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

Phone: 223-1001

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

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

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

**Staff:**

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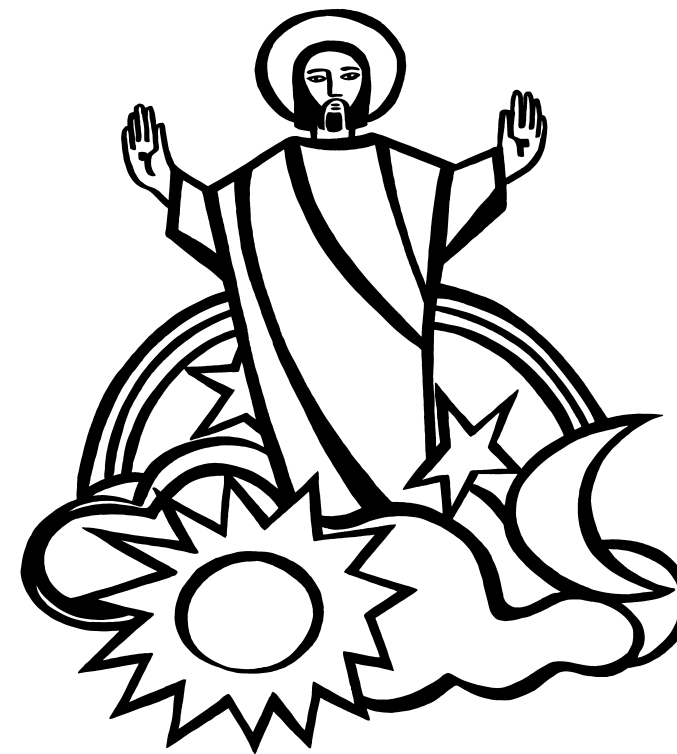
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*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross  
December 3, 2023

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**First Sunday in Advent**  
**December 3, 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**

*“Canticle of the Turning”, “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SONG:** *“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” v.1*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** *“Better Is One Day”*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** Camp of the Cross Staff

*WE HEAR GOD’S WORD*

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 64:1-9

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

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 narthex until warm weather arrives again. Kathryn Spilman takes the donated items and distributes them to the library patrons that go without warm gear.

We will be once again collecting **boys blue jeans for Carrie’s Kids**. The Christmas tree will be put up around Thanksgiving with tags listing sizes that are needed. If you are an early shopper or a late shopper the jeans will be distributed just before Christmas to Carrie’s Kids and also after Christmas. The jeans do not have to be wrapped just placed under the tree. Thank you for your willingness to share your blessings with this ministry.

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

**December 10th** will be a busy day for those of us who like to sing our favorite Christmas hymns and try yummy Christmas cookies. The cookie buying follows the worship service in the multipurpose room and the singing comes at 2pm here. (The drop off for the cookies will first be Saturday at 3 pm.) Once it’s determined how many voices are available lists will be created with locations given out here at 2. Bring the entire family to both events. Share the Christmas Spirit.

*I've*  
*So much to be*  
**THANKFUL**  
*For*

The **church directory** will be printed starting next week. In fact, there are two directories you will get. One with the photos submitted only and the second one is everyone including the photos. In the “complete” directory, photos aren’t always next to the name but sometimes on the next page due to the information printed on the page. (The secretary has no control over the placement of that.) If you are wondering, yes you may still continue to send in your individual or family picture. They will be continually added into the directory. The directory will be printed in small batches to accommodate the adding in of new photos. If you still wish to submit a photo send the jpeg photo electronically to: [churchsecretary@midconetwork.com](mailto:churchsecretary@midconetwork.com).

**Heat the Church** The calendar has been placed on the round table in the narthex. Although the cost of heating may have gone up a dime or two, to contribute to this remains the same price as in previous years. November and March is \$10/day. December through February is \$25 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 for continuing this tradition.

The **poinsettia order forms** are at the back of the church and next to the church directory/heat the church calendars. Please fill the form out and return it to the plastic bin next to the secretary’s office or place it in the offering plate.



- <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
- <sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.
- <sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
- <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
- <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
- <sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.
- <sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

**RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

- <sup>1</sup>Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
- <sup>2</sup>**before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.**  
**Stir up your might,**  
**and come to save us!**
- <sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

<sup>4</sup>**O Lord GOD of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears,  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

<sup>6</sup>**You make us the scorn of our neighbors;  
our enemies laugh among themselves.**

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

<sup>17</sup>**But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one whom you made strong for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup>Then we will never turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call on your name.

<sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

## **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: Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Gamus  
January: The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams  
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.

Any activities must be scheduled through the church office to ensure there are no conflicting schedules or groups needing the same room at the same time or that staff is here.

There is a wonderful opportunity coming to get in the Christmas spirit! A combination of LCC singers from the River Team and Living Water will be performing in the **8th Annual Interfaith Community Christmas Concert**. This is a FREE Interfaith Christmas Concert and people of all faiths are invited to attend! The concert is an opportunity to reflect on the reason we as Christians celebrate Christmas - the joy of Jesus Christ's birth. In addition, there will be wonderful music from a variety of Bismarck musical groups. This concert is Dec. 8th at 6:30 pm. The location is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1500 Country West Rd., Bismarck. Please join us!

Today's the day for **tasting and feasting** on the Wishek's sausage and the great pancakes of Paul Gurholt and crew. Enjoy sharing a meal with the Camp of the Cross staff knowing the free will offering is going to a much needed piece of equipment for the ongoing ministry of Camp of the Cross. Come fill your tummies and fill the \$\$ pot.

The **reports for the Annual Meeting** scheduled for Jan. 21 are due January 10 by noon. Send them electronically to churchsecretary@midconetwork.com. The Annual Report booklet needs to be handed out one week prior to the scheduled event.

There is a **signup sheet for Caroling** along with the Cookie sign up sheet. Participants will meet here at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall to be divided into groups and given lists of locations to go caroling.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR of December 3, 2023

<b>Today, December 3:</b>	<b>River Service 10:00am 11:00am Pancake &amp; Sausage Breakfast Tractor Benefit for COC</b>
<b>Monday, December 4:</b>	<b>Stitching Group 9am</b>
<b>Tuesday, December 5:</b>	
<b>Wednesday, December 6:</b>	<b>Supper 5:00pm Worship Service 6:15pm Church School 7:00pm River practice 7pm</b>
<b>Thursday, December 7:</b>	<b>AA Meeting 7:30pm</b>
<b>Friday, December 8:</b>	<b>Wired Word 1:30pm</b>
<b>Saturday, December 9:</b>	<b>Men's Bible Study 10:00am River practice 4pm</b>
<b>Sunday, December 10:</b>	<b>River Service 10:00am Coffee 11:00am Cookie Walk 11:00am Caroling 2pm</b>

### **Future Events**

**Annual Meeting January 21, 2024**

### **GOSPEL READING Mark 13:24-37**

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”



**SERMON** Deacon Janie Hague

**SONG OF THE DAY:** *“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” ELW#244*

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

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

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING:** *“Christmas Offering”*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

*WE SHARE THE MEAL*

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD’S PRAYER:** Spoken

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** *“Living Hope”*

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION:** *“Final Blessing”* (Holden Evening Prayer)

**SENDING SONG:** *“Hark the Glad Sound” ELW #239*

**DISMISSAL:** *“Soon and Very Soon”*

**Introduction:** Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist’s plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

**“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS**

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Art Wheeler

**Ushers**—Joel & Suzanne Toso, Larry & Verlaine Jahner

**Communion Assistants**—Heather Martin, Marlene Grabow, Donna Belisle

**Faith & Care**— Kim & Mike Humann, Deb & Rod Sargent

**Altar Guild**—Cherie Krueger, Kelly Olson, Donna Belisle, Sarah Dahl

**River Worship Team**—

**Sound Board Technicians**— 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, John Saylor, Tom Wade, Barb Wilson

**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, Josey Hanson, Mary Ternes, Jeff Thomas, Jean King, Jim Miller, Heidi Renner, Peg Ahlness, Jacob Walby, Kristy Forrest, JoDee Saylor, Colter Lee

**For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—**

Vicki Moser