

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

Office 223-1001 / churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

Art Wheeler, **Treasurer**

527-9582/ lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com

Beth Greff, **Worship Coordinator**

400-2087/ theriver@midconetwork.com

Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

498-2604/ cranejoel58@gmail.com

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 msladyj2000@gmail.com 471.5600

Jessi Karvo, Secretary jfish321@gmail.com 426.7439

Cherie Krueger, cheriekrueger@gmail.com 226.7514

Mike Geiermann, mgeiermann12@gmail.com 471.5122

Sarah Dahl, sarahdahlmba@gmail.com 226.6844

Scot Long, scotglong@gmail.com 400.2169

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

November 19, 2023

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
November 19, 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

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” ELW #712, “Days of Elijah”, “God Will Make a Way”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *“Light Dawns on a Weary World” ELW #726*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”

Isn't the fall **bulletin board**, done by artists Heather and Libby Martin, wonderful? Who wants to be next? We need **you** to consider designing and executing a bulletin board for Advent - and another for Christmas season! Call the office or let Pastor Lisa know if you'd like in on the fun! We can reimburse you for supplies needed.

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.

The **poinsettia order forms** are already 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.

A **Thrivent Action Event** has been set for December 3rd at Church of the Cross following the church service. A Pancake and Sausage breakfast is planned to help raise funds for a much needed tractor to assist with the summer and winter time chores at Camp of the Cross. A used snow blower has already been donated to the camp. Since there is a Case IH dealer in Garrison with proximity to Camp of the Cross, a new tractor with Cab, front loader, 3 point hitch, all wheel drive and hydraulics needed for operation has been talked about. If service is needed, help is close. For more information: call/see Lee Jensen, Ken Will or John Kraft.

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.

Don't plan on starting a diet Dec. 3 (for the holidays) because there will be another famous **Sausage and Pancake Breakfast** after church in support of Camp of the Cross' need of a tractor. Come extra hungry that day. Volunteers are needed for food purchases, also for set up and working the event. Please see the [sign up sheet on the round table](#). Save the diet for after the holidays because there is also a Cookie Walk scheduled for Dec. 10th. Volunteers will be needed for that also.

The **church directory** is available 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!!! 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. Please submit the jpeg photo electronically to: churchsecretary@midconetwork.com. Photos can be taken on your phone or camera. Take a selfie! Ask your neighbor to be the photographer! Ask your friends at church or come to the church and the secretary will take your photo! Let's get this project completed by Thanksgiving! The church office has received 35 photos so far (Thank you!) and the secretary has included them into the paper directory. The photos are absolutely wonderful and will make the directory so worthwhile once we have all of the photos included. Get yours in!!

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 in advance for continuing this tradition..

*I've
So much to be*
THANKFUL
For

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 90:1-8 (9-11) 12

¹LORD, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

²Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,

³You turn us back to dust,
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
⁴For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.
⁵You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
⁶in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
⁸You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
⁹For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end like a sigh.
¹⁰The days of our life are seventy years,
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
¹¹Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.
¹²So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

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.

Those **Saints** who have passed this year are Virginia Smith, Berdeal Bergo, Bernice Walton, Arlene Hoglund, Todd Wood, Bernice Steinke, LaVonne Hultin, Gary Hultin, Gladys Bain, John Behan, Lois Kunze, Cathy VanMiddlesworth, Donovan Walton, and Vicki Moser.

New Member class is today at 11am. Grab a cup of coffee and meet in the Sunday school classroom next to the Youth room.

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.

Did you notice the **library books** out on the table in the narthex? They are yours for the taking. The library over the years has gotten duplicates so they have been weeded out which many are from the library of Virginia Smith who once was a member here and who has passed. She was an avid reader who because of her love of a good book once owned a book store in downtown Bismarck. The books will be out for a number of weeks and any leftovers will be donated to the Veteran's Memorial Library's Used Book Sale.

For the **safety** of the staff and for the safety of congregational volunteers, the doors will be locked during business hours. Call the church 223.1001 or knock to be given access.

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.

Five pies are needed for the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service Wednesday, Nov.22. If you bring them to the church by Wed. noon the secretary will take them to Faith Lutheran. Please let the church know if you are able to provide one.

WEEKLY CALENDAR of November 19, 2023

Today, November 19:	River Service 10:00 am Coffee 11:00am New member class 11:00 am
Monday, November 20:	Stitching Group 9am
Tuesday, November 21:	
Wednesday, November 22:	Ecumenical Service @ Faith Lutheran 7pm River practice 7pm
Thursday, November 23:	Thanksgiving Office closed AA Meeting 7:30pm
Friday, November 24:	Office closed
Saturday, November 25:	Men's Bible Study 10:00am River practice 4pm
Sunday, November 26:	River Service 10:00am Coffee 11:00am

Future Events

Pancake and Sausage Breakfast Sunday Dec. 3 Tractor Benefit for COC

Cookie Walk, Caroling Sunday Dec. 10

⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *"Thy Word"*

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?'

²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: “*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*” ELW #632

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: “*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*”

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: “*Give Thanks*”

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER: *Spoken*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “*Christ Be Our Light*” ELW #715

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION: *Spoken*

SENDING SONG: “*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*” ELW #815

DISMISSAL: “*I’ll Fly Away*”

“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Roger Krueger

Greeters—Mike & Tracy Geiermann

Ushers—Keven & Janice Martin, Lynn & Marlene Grabow

Communion Assistants—Melissa Long, Verlaine Jahner, Ken Will

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

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—

Vicki Moser