

Lutheran Church of the Cross  
1004 E Highland Acres Rd.  
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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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*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross  
November 26, 2023

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**November 26, 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**

“We Gather Together”, “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”, “Thanksgiving Medley”

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** “Crown Him With Many Crowns ” ELW #855

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*WE HEAR GOD’S WORD*

**FIRST READING:** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the water-courses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land.

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 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.

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.

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

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](#). 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 is being sought to purchase. If service is needed, help is close. 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. Talk to Lee Jensen, Ken Will or John Kraft about the tractor.

The **church directory** is available in the narthex for your review. If any information has changed please write it in. If the information is correct 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](mailto: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.

<sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

### **RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 95:1-7a**

<sup>1</sup>O come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

<sup>2</sup>**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;**

**let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>**In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is his, for he made it,  
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

<sup>6</sup>O come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

<sup>7</sup>For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23**

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

## **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.

**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.

*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!

To **honor them**, LaVern Hanson and Terry Grenz for their years of service to LCC please stop by after the service and have some cake. Thank them for their years of service running the sound board during the services.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR of November 26, 2023

<b>Today, November 26:</b>	<b>River Service 10:00 am Coffee 11:00am</b>
<b>Monday, November 27:</b>	<b>Stitching Group 9am</b>
<b>Tuesday, November 28:</b>	
<b>Wednesday, November 29:</b>	<b>Supper 5:15pm Worship Service 6:00pm Church School 7:00 pm Confirmation 7pm River practice 7pm</b>
<b>Thursday, November 30:</b>	<b>AA Meeting 7:30pm</b>
<b>Friday, December 1:</b>	<b>Wired Word 1:30pm</b>
<b>Saturday, December 2:</b>	<b>Men's Bible Study 10:00am River practice 4pm</b>
<b>Sunday, December 3:</b>	<b>River Service 10:00am Pancake &amp; Sausage Breakfast 11:00am Tractor Benefit for COC</b>

### **Future Events**

**Cookie Walk, Caroling Sunday Dec. 10**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Thy Word"**

#### **GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:31-46**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>31</sup>"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.' <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."



**SERMON** Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**SONG OF THE DAY:** *“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” ELW #634*

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

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

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING:** *“Give Me a Grateful Heart”*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

*WE SHARE THE MEAL*

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD’S PRAYER:** *“Lord’s Prayer”*

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** *“The King of Love My Shepherd Is” ELW #502*

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION:** “The Lord Be With You”

**SENDING SONG:** *“Jesus Shall Reign” ELW #434*

**DISMISSAL:** *“Sanctuary”*

**Introduction:** On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus’ great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

## **“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS**

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Tracy Geiermann

**Greeters**—Scot & Melissa Long

**Ushers**—Tracy & Mike Geiermann, Steve & Cheryl Neu

**Communion Assistants**—Myrtice Behan, Sheila Koffler, Mavis Pommerer

**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